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No 61,836

THE



TIMES

MONDAY MAY 21 1984

20p

Tomorrow

Europeans
Julian Haviland reports on the Conservative and Labour manifestos for next month's European elections
Regal airs
Suzy Menkes on an exhibition of clothing fit for a queen



The way ahead
Abba Eban suggests how Nato could enter a new era of opportunity
Blast-off
Computer Horizons launches The Times Business Enterprise Competition to find the best and most original business use for modern micros with three HP 150s to be won

Disquiet on Heseltine's Forces plan

The Chiefs of Staff of the Royal Navy, the Army and the Royal Air Force have expressed anxiety about some aspects of the plan by the Secretary of State for Defence, Mr Michael Heseltine, to concentrate the formation of policy in a single organization under the Chief of the Defence Staff. Page 3

Sea search

A search has been launched for three men whose fishing boat is missing in good weather in the Irish Sea. They left Holyhead on Thursday.

Perón return

Several people were injured in clashes outside the Buenos Aires hotel where ex-President María Estela Martínez de Perón was staying after her arrival from Madrid for talks with President Alfonsín. Page 5

Secrets kept

The Swiss voted yesterday by almost 3-1 against relaxing the law on banking secrecy, but there was only a 2 per cent majority against banning property purchases by non-resident foreigners.

Salvador claim

Senior José Napoleón Duarte, president-elect of El Salvador, said in Washington that the Army had only three months' supply of bullets left for its war against left-wing guerrillas. Amnesty report, page 5

Bombay battle

Bombay and the nearby town of Bhivandi were gripped by violence between Hindus and Muslims, in which 79 people have died, for the third day running. Page 6

Bombing ban

Troops are likely to be barred from next year's international fishing festival in Ulster after two off-duty soldiers taking part in the competition were killed on Friday by an IRA bomb. Page 2

Tax trade-off

The accountancy profession has offered to help the Treasury draft tax-avoidance legislation, in return for an easing of a proposed general clampdown on tax havens. Page 19

Lauda's victory

Niki Lauda, of Austria, scored his second victory of the season when he won the French Grand Prix for McLaren at Dijon. Patrick Tambay, of France, was second in a Renault. Page 23

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Letters: On banks and South Africa, from the Rev. R. Harris; training for industry, from Mr R. Shephard; and others; Mallorca, from Dr E. Beckert.
Leading articles: Teachers; Sir John Betjeman; Marcos.
Features, pages 8, 10, 12
The Gulf: a need for super-power diplomacy; the case against pay comparability; doing bad to good; David Gower, steady cavalier. Spectrum: Solidarity's prisoners of conscience. Monday Page: gift-ed outsiders.
Obituary, page 14
Sir John Betjeman

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Unions split over Murray ban on sympathy strikes

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

The Labour movement is on the brink of its most damaging split for years in the wake of the decision of Mr Len Murray, TUC general secretary, to disown sympathy strikes in support of the miners.

Labour's parliamentary front bench will also be dragged into the controversy today as bus crews, railway workers, local authority employees and engineering firms defy the Murray ruling to stage a "day of action" in South Yorkshire.

Mr John Dornand, chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party, yesterday condemned the TUC leader's intervention as disgraceful and promised to raise it this morning at a meeting of the TUC-Labour Party liaison committee, at which Mr Neil Kinnock, the party leader, and Mr Murray will be present.

Moderate union leaders are privately springing to the defence of Mr Murray, arguing that the unity and authority of the TUC is at stake, but supportive industrial action is expected to continue. The Wales TUC is refusing to abolish plans for a similar "day of action" on June 12.

The conflict over strategy in the miners' strike, which today enters its eleventh week, came into the open at a northern region conference of the Labour Party in Newcastle upon Tyne. Traditionally moderate Northumberland miners tabled an emergency resolution deploring Mr Murray's statement.

It added: "The consequences of this could cause some trade unionists to withdraw essential support from the miners' fight in a crucial stage of the dispute. We welcome the local initiatives that have existed since the dispute started and hope that they will continue."

Delegates unanimously approved the resolution, and Mr Dornand, MP for the mining constituency of Easington, where the strike is solid, said: "I will raise this matter. It may well be that there is some mechanical, technical justification, but there is no justification for saying it at this time."

In a circular to regional secretaries of the TUC, Mr Murray issued a warning that they would be exceeding their authority in giving official backing to local actions in support of the miners, saying that the National Union of Mineworkers had not formally requested support from the TUC General Council.

His letter has started a fierce political battle that will carry on into a meeting of the TUC's "inner cabinet", its finance and general purposes committee, later in the day and into the full general council meeting on Wednesday.

Today's deliberations are likely to be inconclusive, but union leaders who share some of the Congress House pique at being kept at arms' length from the biggest dispute since Mrs Margaret Thatcher took office are pressing for some form of TUC initiative.

Mr Arthur Scargill, the miners' president, who resigned his seat on the general council last year in favour of the union's communist vice-president, may be invited in for senior level informal discussions on the conduct of the strike.

While the labour movement digs itself into deeper trouble over the pits dispute Mr Stanley Orme, MP, the Shadow Secretary of State for Energy, will today meet Mr Ian MacGregor, chairman of the National Coal Board, for "talks about talks" on an agenda to break the negotiating deadlock.

But the board is not likely to respond positively to the Opposition demands for compromise on its plans to make 20,000 men redundant before March 31, 1985 and close 20 pits. The board insists that four million tonnes of capacity must shut, though it holds out the prospect for more jobs for young people in 1985-86 if that exercise is carried through.

A tougher blockade on exports of coal to Britain was predicted by Mr Scargill after weekend talks with miners' unions from 48 other countries in Paris. Coal from Australia had been halted, he said, and the union now sought to extend the ban to Poland and the European ports, particularly Rotterdam.

The Defence Minister, revealed in an interview with Tass that Russia had increased the number of its nuclear-armed submarines off the American coast. Giving a detailed account of Moscow's retaliation for the deployment of cruise and Pershing last autumn, he said Pershing's ability to hit Warsaw Pact targets in eight to 10 minutes gave Nato only an illusory advantage. Soviet sea-based missiles posed a "counter-balancing threat".

Marshal Shtimov confirmed that Moscow had also stationed "enhanced-range" operational tactical missiles in East Germany and Czechoslovakia, and said Russia would match Western deployments missile for missile, moving more SS20s into Eastern Europe as cruise and Pershing were deployed in Western Europe.

He said the situation was abnormal and dangerous and undertook to "cancel" Russia's retaliatory measures if cruise and Pershing were withdrawn. President Chernenko, in a letter to American scientists published on the front page of Pravda yesterday, offered immediate talks on the military-ization of space "without conditions or reservations".

Echoing Mr Andropov's call last August for a ban on anti-satellite weapons, Mr Chernenko urged a total ban on space weaponry. Diplomats believe the Kremlin and the military are afraid they will be unable to match American developments.

WASHINGTON: The Defence Department said there was nothing new in Mr Ustinov's warning that submarines could strike at American targets in 10 minutes (Reuter reports).

Fuller, aged 72, and D J Enright, aged 64, Ewart, a prolific and witty writer, might be a suitable choice. Fuller, a former governor of the BBC and member of the Arts Council, seems sure to be considered. Of the other poets, Ted Hughes is probably the liveliest outsider, but he is only 54, and would be unlikely to be asked ahead of Larkin.

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Obituary, page 14
Poet's landmarks, back page

European campaign launched

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Threat to Tories, page 4

Yelena Bonner pilloried

From Richard Owen, Moscow

With mystery surrounding the fate of Dr Andrei Sakharov, the exiled dissident scientist, *Izvestiya* yesterday accused Dr Sakharov's wife, Mrs Yelena Bonner, of trying to get to the West "over his dead body".

Izvestiya did not say whether Dr Sakharov was dying, as both relatives abroad and dissidents in Moscow believe. The Soviet physicist was exiled to the closed town of Gorky four years ago for human rights activities, and it is in poor health. He began a hunger strike on May 2 to protest against the authorities' refusal to allow his wife to go abroad for medical treatment.

Friends of the family said at

the weekend that Dr Sakharov had been taken away from his flat in Gorky on May 7. There is speculation that he has been taken to hospital and is being force fed.

Izvestiya said yesterday that Mrs Bonner had planned to use her husband's hunger strike to put pressure on the authorities and escape to the West, "even over his dead body".

It said Mrs Bonner was a shallow, domineering, resentful and greedy woman who had forced Dr Sakharov into his protest and was ready to betray anybody and anything for her own gain.

It claimed the KGB had

found a letter from the dissident physicist to the American Embassy saying that in reality his health was good.

GENEVA: A young Russian soldier, Valery Didenko, interned in Switzerland for two years after being captured by the Afghan resistance, returned to Moscow yesterday on an aeroplane flight from Zurich, having opted for repatriation (Alan McGregor writes).

Two others, Viktor Sontshuk and Yuri Powarnitsyn, also in their early twenties, whose term of internment has likewise expired, are being permitted to remain in Switzerland.

Kabul drags heels, page 4

Poets line up for the Laureate's £97-a-year post

By Rupert Morris

The death at 77 of the Poet Laureate, Sir John Betjeman, will have saddened his friends, relatives, and many admirers. It will also stimulate interest not only in his poetry, but in poetry generally, as the speculation increases over his successor.

Sir John died on Saturday at Trebetherick, north Cornwall. He will be buried there tomorrow at St Enoch's Church, the tiny Norman church where he worshipped all his life, and where his mother was buried.

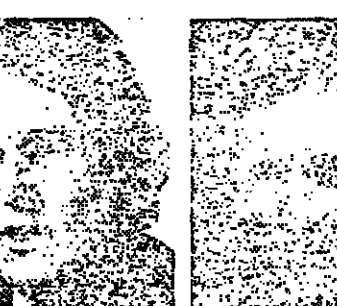
The post of Poet Laureate, which he held from 1972, is regarded by serious poets as something of an anachronism, and Sir John himself was not conspicuously successful in the



Front-runners (from left): Philip Larkin, Gavin Ewart, Roy Fuller, and D J Enright

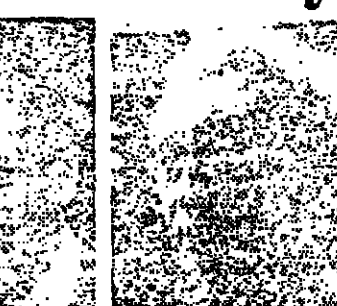
traditional role of producing poetry for state occasions.

Former holders of the office include Southey, Wordsworth and Tennyson, and it would be a curious poet indeed who would turn down a title which, although only carrying a modest salary of £70 a year, plus £27 "in lieu of a butt of sack", can



do nothing but help propagate the versifier's art.

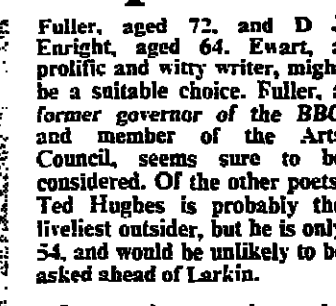
Philip Larkin, aged 61, the Hull librarian, is regarded by most of his peers as the best living British poet, and must be favourite for the job. Betjeman himself, when asked in 1973 who he thought should succeed Cecil Day-Lewis, told *The*



Times: "If it's a prize for best poet I think it should go to Philip Larkin."

However, Larkin writes at the misery rate of two poems a year and his last collection of verse, *High Windows*, was published in 1974.

Other credible candidates are Gavin Ewart, aged 68, Roy



Fuller, aged 72, and D J Enright, aged 64, Ewart, a prolific and witty writer, might be a suitable choice. Fuller, a former governor of the BBC and member of the Arts Council, seems sure to be considered. Of the other poets, Ted Hughes is probably the liveliest outsider, but he is only 54, and would be unlikely to be asked ahead of Larkin.

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Jubilation as Everton heroes bring home the Cup



Toast of Merseyside: Members of the victorious Everton team touring Liverpool yesterday with the FA Cup after beating Watford 2-0 at Wembley. Half a million jubilant fans lined the streets. Report, page 21.

Ustinov in early-strike threat to Washington

From Richard Owen, Moscow

The Kremlin yesterday simultaneously threatened and conciliated the West, with President Chernenko calling for talks on space weapons "without preconditions", while Marshal Dmitry Ustinov gave a warning that Soviet submarines could hit the United States with nuclear missiles in 10 minutes.

The Defence Minister, revealed in an interview with Tass that Russia had increased the number of its nuclear-armed submarines off the American coast. Giving a detailed account of Moscow's retaliation for the deployment of cruise and Pershing last autumn, he said Pershing's ability to hit Warsaw Pact targets in eight to 10 minutes gave Nato only an illusory advantage. Soviet sea-based missiles posed a "counter-balancing threat".

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Saudi Air Force alerted to protect shipping

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

The United States has been privately informed that Saudi Arabia is likely to launch its highly sophisticated Air Force in case of future attacks by Iranian fighters close to Saudi territory in the Gulf.

The prospect of the two oil giants coming into direct conflict has sent shivers of apprehension through the Reagan Administration.

The Saudi warning came from Prince Saud al-Faisal, the Saudi Foreign Minister after a one-day emergency meeting of the Arab League in Tunis. The ministers also called on the United Nations Security Council to take "firm and clear action" to end the crisis.

The US told the Gulf nations at the weekend that while it remained neutral in the Iran-Iraq conflict it was willing to join others in moves to ensure that the Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz remained open. It

reaffirmed willingness to provide military escorts for tankers and other defenceless merchant vessels.

Arab countries so far have apparently not expressed any desire for direct American military involvement. All eyes now appear to be focused on the

Map Page 5
Iraqi strategy Page 5
Iran's tit-for-tat Page 5
Time for diplomacy Page 12

Saudis to see whether they will unleash their formidable array of US-supplied warplanes on Iranian aircraft that threaten its shipping. For tactical reasons such attacks would, it is assumed by US Government officials, be restricted to an area close to Saudi territory.

Administration officials said they understood that the sinking of the Panamanian-regis-

tered cargo ship by Iraq on Saturday followed a direct hit from an Exocet missile fired from a Super-Etendard fighter leased to the Iraqis by France.

Although not seeking US military help, the Saudis and others have asked for reassurances in recent days that in the event of an emergency the Americans could be relied on to help.

The US has long had contingency plans to provide military escorts and air cover in the Gulf if requested. Although officially not taking sides, the US clearly inclines towards Iraq. "We are not in love with the Iraqis," a senior State Department official told *The Times*. "We find them less hateful than the Iranians."

About a fifth of the world's imported oil supplies come from the Gulf, half of which goes to Japan and Western Europe.

Iranians threaten reprisals

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

Riyadh for urgent talks on the crisis. Vice-President George Bush of the United States said on a three-day visit to Oman that the United States was "not in a position to try to impose a settlement of the bitter conflict".

He told a press conference that it would be more effective for "closer neighbours" of the two warring countries to work for a peaceful solution.

This seemed to reflect the policy in Whitehall, where sources would say little beyond repeating that they were in close touch with the United States and France on the matter.

PARIS: France has expressed its "very great anxiety" over the repeated attacks

against commercial vessels in the Gulf and has called on "all the parties concerned" to bring into force as rapidly as possible the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, including the call for an immediate cessation of hostilities in the area. (Diana Geddes writes).

France is Iraq's second most important supplier of arms after the Soviet Union. Its delivery to Baghdad last October of five Super-Etendard aircraft equipped with Exocet missiles, provoked an international outcry.

There is a considerable French military presence in and around the Gulf. About 20 per cent of France's oil imports come from the Gulf.

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Threat to Tories, page 4



DODO (*Raphus Cucullatus*) It was too plump to fly and couldn't run without its undercarriage dragging on the ground. Its top speed was a very brisk waddle. It's recently been sighted sitting on desks all over Britain. See pages 3, 5, 7, 9, 11.

By Paul Routledge and Barrie Clement

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Heseltine under pressure from Service chiefs to modify reorganization

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

The most senior officers of the Royal Navy, the Army, and the Royal Air Force have formally made known to Mr. Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, their anxieties about some aspects of his scheme for reorganizing the highest levels of the Ministry of Defence.

They are understood to have done so in a memorandum which sets out arguments in favour of the individual Services retaining a more effective role in policy formation and other matters than Mr Heseltine intends them to have.

Under his scheme, which was published in outline in March, and of which the details are being worked out, the individual Services would lose their policy-forming staffs; they would be concentrated in a single organization under the Chief of Defence Staff.

The memorandum to Mr Heseltine is believed to have been signed by Admiral Sir John Fieldhouse, Chief of the Naval Staff and First Sea Lord, General Sir John Stanier, Chief of the General Staff, and Air Chief Marshal Sir Keith Williamson, Chief of the Air Staff.

The Services have been surprised that Mr Heseltine

should have launched his far-reaching proposals after discussing them with only a handful of people. It is said that even Field Marshal Sir Edwin Bramall, Chief of the Defence Staff, was not involved until about two days before the scheme was published.

Mr Heseltine says he did so because it was inevitable that his ideas would leak out as soon as a larger number of people was brought into the discussions. It is also probable that he foresaw the hostility he would arouse and he may have felt that he could achieve his reforms only through bouncing the Services into them by a surprise publication.

The chiefs of the individual Services are believed to take the view that Mr Heseltine has invested so much political capital in his scheme that it is inevitable that something fairly closely resembling it will be implemented.

Their memorandum, therefore, does not amount to root-and-branch opposition to his scheme, nor does it offer an alternative organizational structure to his.

Their strategy appears to be to accept the broad thrust of Mr Heseltine's plan, but to seek modifications to it to eliminate

what are seen as its more harmful defects.

The Service chiefs are understood in the memorandum to have set out principled arguments in favour of the individual Services retaining an effective capability in such matters as resource allocation, assessment of operational requirements, and policy formation, and against the shift of staff being reduced to the role of managers of their Services.

One solution which has been mooted, though probably not in the chiefs' memorandum, is that some elements of the central policy staffs should have a role related specifically to an individual Service, for example, Operational Requirements (Royal Navy), and that in such cases that section should be responsible not only to the Chief of Defence Staff, as Mr Heseltine wishes, but also to the relevant single Service chief of staff.

It is understood that the chiefs are not resisting Mr Heseltine's intention to abolish the positions of vice-chiefs of staff, though it is being said that someone will have to do a similar job, possibly downgraded by one rank.

Link with surveyors opposed

By Frances Gibb

Legal Affairs Correspondent

Discussions are expected to be set up between the Law Society and the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors over possible partnerships between solicitors and estate agents who are chartered surveyors.

Present rules forbid solicitors entering into partnership with members of other professions and also insist that their practices are run as partnerships and not limited liability companies. But fears over competition for conveyancing work is forcing the profession to consider a variety of options in the way it carries out its work.

The idea of multi-discipline partnerships is one of the topics to be debated on Wednesday at a conference in London of presidents and secretaries of local law societies throughout England and Wales.

There is pressure from some solicitors for their practice rules to be changed to allow such an initiative, but a Law Society working paper to be debated at the conference is not in favour.

It says that, although partnerships offer "a deceptively attractive solution to many of the difficulties the profession will face", they might "undermine the character of the profession" and will ultimately lead to the "disintegration of each of the professions involved".

The paper adds that it would be unrealistic to expect partnerships with chartered surveyors alone "to suffice to answer the needs the profession will face". It would be difficult, it says, to avoid such partnerships with non-professional estate agents, mortgage brokers, and others.

TV-am chief to go in cuts dispute

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

The commercial breakfast station TV-am is to lose its editor-in-chief, Mr Greg Dyke, who is credited with boosting the ratings from a disastrous 200,000 viewers a year ago to 1.4 million, a position which frequently beats the station's rival BBC programme.

Mr Dyke is expected to resign tomorrow after a clash with the company's new managing director, Mr Bruce Gynell, who arrived at TV-am on May 4.

The company refused to comment on Mr Dyke's position yesterday. But it is understood that he decided to resign on Thursday night over plans for more economics.

Mr Gynell, an Australian who was brought in after changes in the company's shareholdings which gave Fleet Holdings and Mr Kerry Packer the two principal stakes, is believed to have concluded that

more cuts in production costs are essential for survival.

TV-am is attracting advertising revenue of about £1m a month but is losing £1.3m a month. Even with its expected increase in advertising revenues during the Los Angeles Olympics, the station is still living beyond its means, and must reduce its overheads, Mr Gynell is believed to have told Mr Dyke, a former London Weekend Television executive.

Mr Dyke is thought to have received £40,000 a year to come to the station, with an audience-related bonus which now gives him a total salary of between £60,000 and £80,000.

TV-am journalists were disappointed at the thought of losing Mr Dyke. One member of the production staff said: "I think most people will be sorry to see him go because he has won a lot of respect".

Rubbish is 'worth' £2,000m

Britain's imports bill for raw materials could be cut by up to £2,000m and energy costs could be much reduced if more rubbish was recycled with new technology, a report in *Footloose*, the environmental magazine, says.

The British recycling rate in 1982 was the worst in the EEC, the report says. About 5 per cent of refuse was used to generate heat, while 30 million tonnes are dumped annually.

Farmers are said to burn six million tonnes of straw, worth £600m.

Women 'harassed' by tutors

Women undergraduates at Oxford University who have suffered sexual harassment by tutors are having great difficulty persuading college authorities to take the complaints seriously, a report issued today says.

Women undergraduates, replying to questionnaires from the Oxford University Student Women's committee, alleged 63 incidents, including one case of rape, one of "coerced sex", four assaults, seven physical approaches, and four propositions.

In 11 cases college tutors were responsible and in 12 external tutors were involved, the report alleges. It says that 18 cases involved male undergraduates. Questionnaires were sent to all 3,000 women undergraduates; 361 were returned.

The report says: "There were worrying allegations that violence against women students by their male colleagues had been hushed up by colleges anxious to avoid scandal."

Kiwi fruit from Guernsey

Guernsey, which provided almost 30 per cent of Britain's summer tomatoes, is going through a vegetable revolution. Glasshouses that used to produce tomatoes are homes for exotic plants such as melons and kiwi fruits.

The island's economy was affected when the Dutch Government gave its producers cheap fuel for heating. That led

to more than 348 acres of tomatoes being lost in the past 10 years.

This year Guernsey will supply only 25,000 tonnes of tomatoes, compared with 60,000 tonnes in 1974, but the island has been growing cucumbers, celery beans, asparagus, and fennel. One producer has even started to retail tomato wine.

Step towards unmanned railway

By Michael Baily, Transport Editor

Advanced electronic equipment being installed on the Bedford to St Pancras commuter line north of London could make it Britain's first completely automatic railway.

The equipment enables one computerized signal box to control the entire 50-mile line, including driverless trains, unmanned stations, and announcements to passengers on trains and stations.

For several weeks now, unknown to passengers, station announcements at Bedford have been made in words no human being spoke.

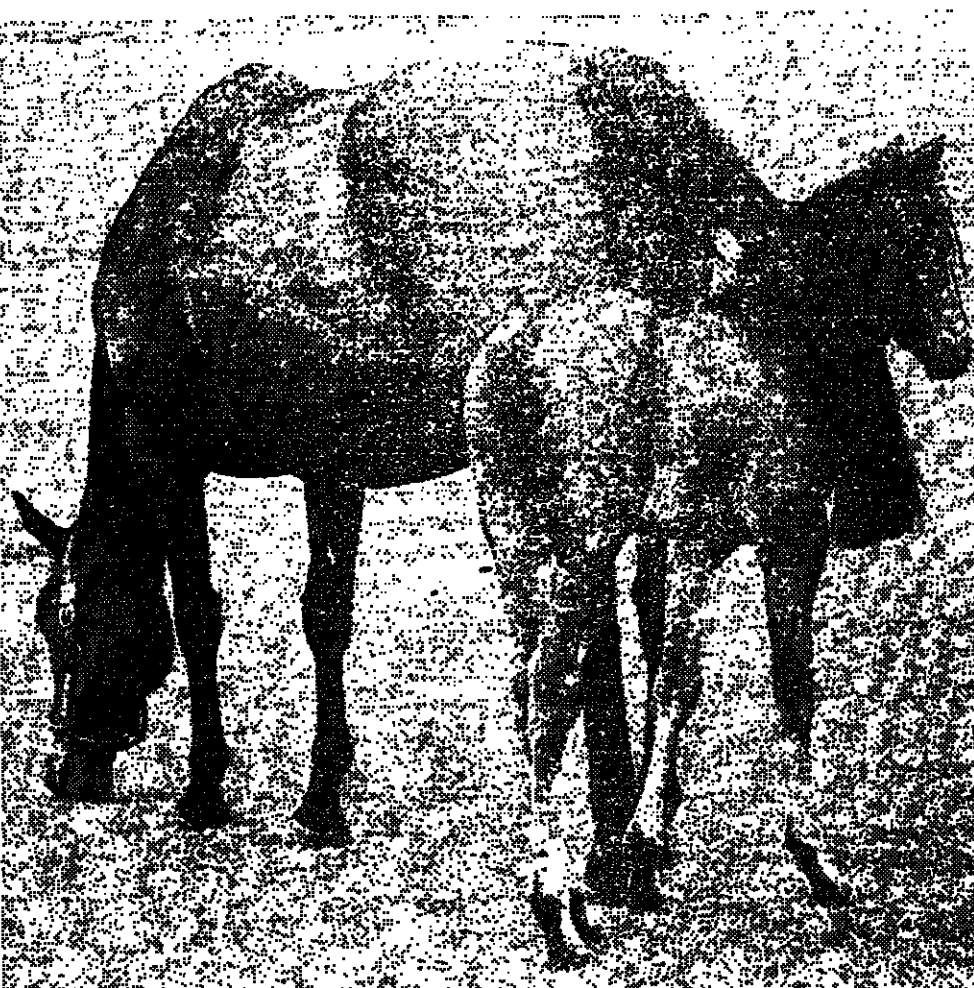
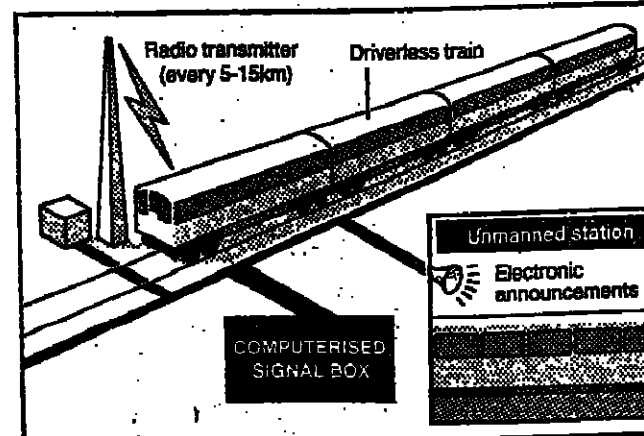
The voice is that of Chris Kay, a North Country announcer, but the words were selected by computer in what is claimed to be the world's most

advanced technique for reconstructing the human voice.

Unlike the new talking dashboards on cars, which use electronic sound and talk like robots, the BR system takes an actual human voice, chops it into sounds one nine-thousandth of a second long, stores them digitally, then reconstitutes them at will.

Dowty Electronics, the developer of the system, regard it as a big breakthrough, and sound systems have already been ordered by Australia Spencer Street Station in Melbourne, South Africa, Canada, Germany and Scotland.

"We can do a Glasgow accent or an Edinburgh one", according to Mr Derek Wyle, Dowty's director of the project.



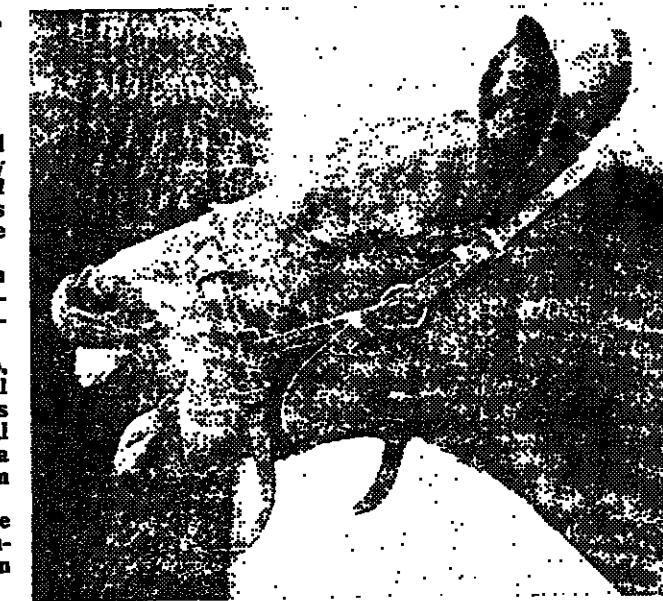
Last foal of Troy's line

Classic pedigree: The last foal of Troy, the 200th Derby winner, who died last May aged seven, standing alongside his mother, Amadina, at the National Stud, Newmarket.

The bay colt was born on April 25 at Tim Holland-Martin's Overbury Stud in Gloucestershire.

The brilliant son of Petingo, owned by Sir Michael Sobell and Lord Winstock, was syndicated to stand, at a capital value of £7.2m. His death was a bitter blow for European breeders.

Amadina, who won three races, has produced two winners. (Photographs: Brian Harris.)



High Street shops set for May sales boom

By Edward Townsend

Industrial Correspondent

Britain's high street sales boom, deflated by bad winter weather and a late Easter, is enjoying a spring filip and shopkeepers are set for record trading in May.

The latest distributive trades survey published today by the Confederation of British Industry indicates that 70 per cent of retailers expect their sales to be higher this month than a year ago, with only 6 per cent predicting a dip.

However, because the expectations of shops and stores have not been fully realized during the past four months, the CBI is remaining cautious about immediate prospects. Mr John Salisse, chairman of the survey panel, said: "It is too early to say whether May will be better than last month, which was a very good one, surpassing the record levels reached in the last quarter of 1983". In April, 71 per cent of retailers reported increased sales on a year earlier. 55 per cent said orders placed with suppliers were up, and 60 per cent had increased their stocks.

In the year ended in April, the confectionery, tobacco, and newspapers sector was the only one to report a decrease in orders placed with suppliers. It was also the only sector to destock during the year.

Expectations are most cautious in the motor trades, where 48 per cent of firms expect sales this month to remain at last year's level.

Blossoms for romance

Fresh flowers are the most romantic gift for a woman, said 65 per cent of women, among more than 1,000 people interviewed in a Gallup poll for Interflora on the eve of the Chelsea Flower Show. Lingric came next (18 per cent); then theatre tickets (9 per cent); and chocolates (5 per cent).

Yeast pills could speed making of champagne

By Jane MacQuitty

A French research programme into tiny porous yeast capsules could speed up the costly process of making champagne.

The hitherto secret research has been conducted jointly by the Champagne region's official body, the Comité Interprofessionnel de Vin de Champagne (CIVC), and the world's largest champagne producer, Moët et Chandon, but it will take at least two more years of research before the industry knows whether the new encapsulated yeast system will work.

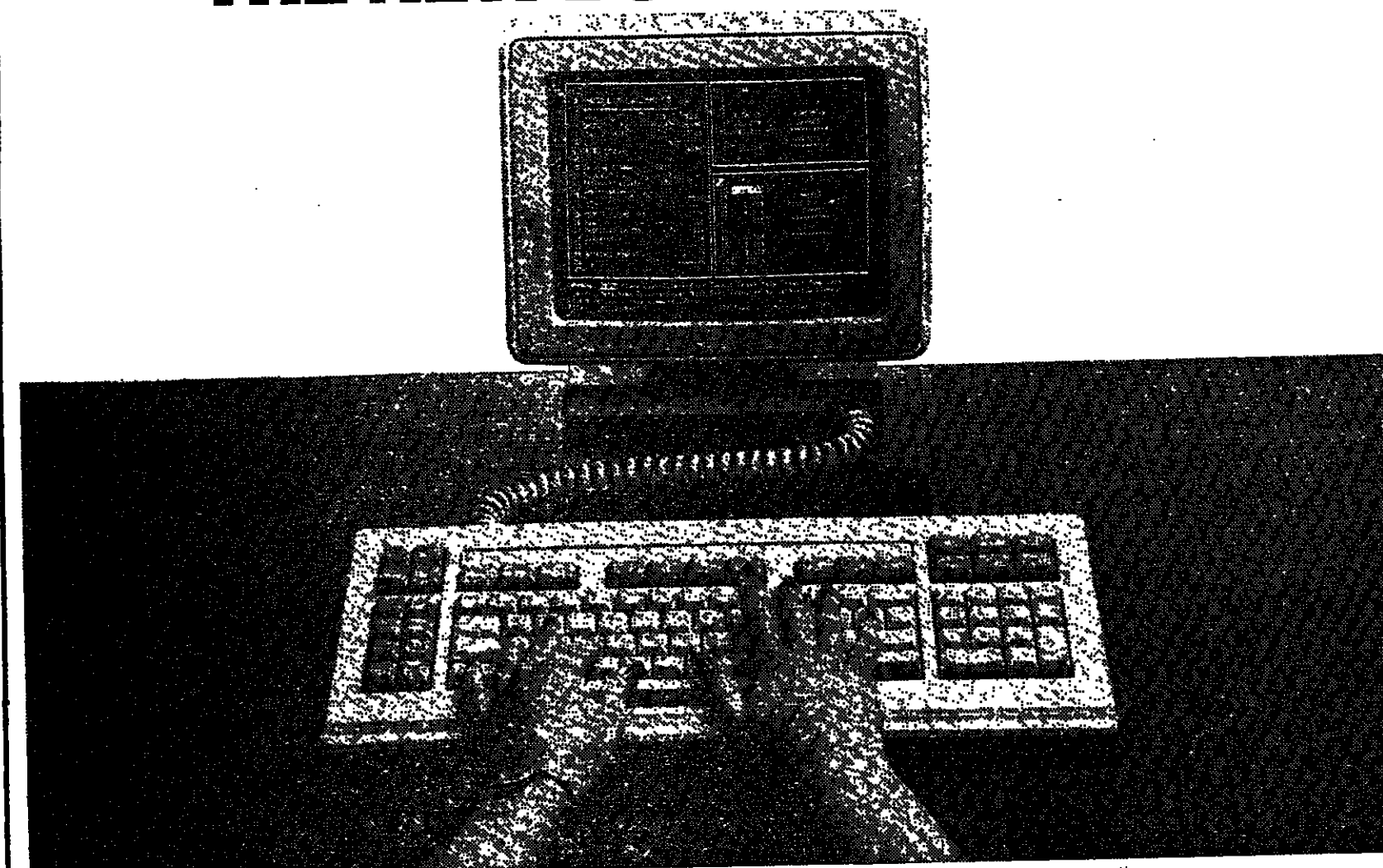
The yeast capsules made from a neutral gelatine membrane induce champagne to bubble as usual during the second fermentation but also trap the yeasty sediment. Removing the capsules should be much quicker than the present laborious *remuage* method of standing the bottles upside down in wooden racks, gradually shaking by hand the sediment down on to the cork before removing cork and sediment.

Both the CIVC and Moët et Chandon have emphasized that the encapsulated yeast method is still at the experimental and confidential stage, with M Yves Bernard, chairman of the champagne makers, admitting that he knew the Spanish sparkling wine firm were looking at it.

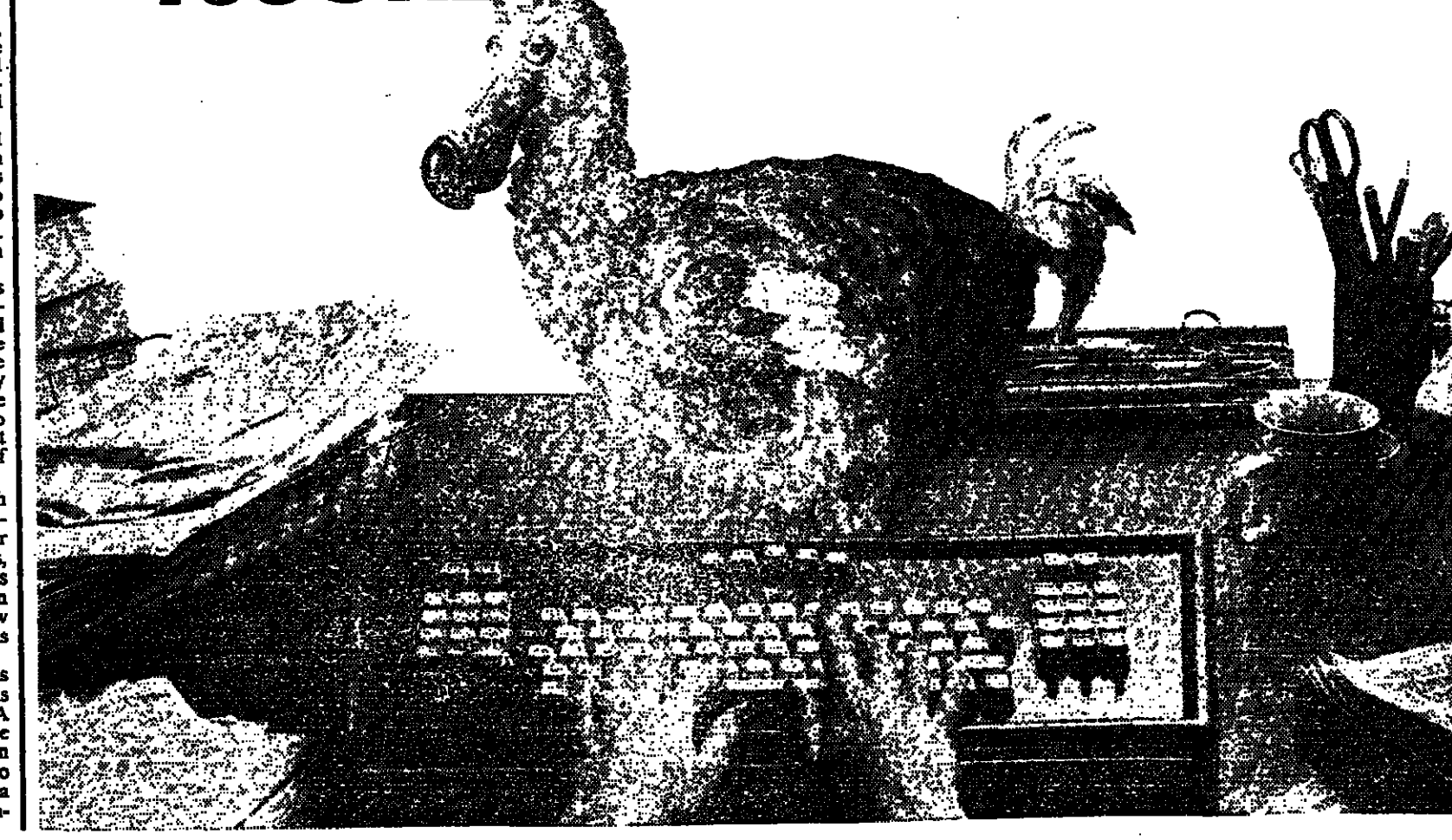
According to M André Enders, of the CIVC, although there have been "interesting results" the official body is now trying to make the yeast method work on a commercial scale.

Unlike the CIVC, M Bernard feels that even with the new system *remuage* would still have to take place, although with less time in the racks. He saw its chief advantage not in speeding up *remuage* but in gaining valuable bottle storage space in the cellars. He concluded: "It is not a revolution it is an evolution".

THE NEW BURROUGHS B25.



UNLESS OF COURSE YOU STILL WANT ONE OF THESE.



Campaign for Europe: 1

Threat to dozen Tories in cities

The three-cornered battle for English seats in next month's European elections will be fought most fiercely in the main conurbations of the Midlands and the North-west. For it is there that nearly all the Conservative and Labour marginals lie.

As the campaign opens, Conservative candidates in these key areas are aware that the recent local and by-election results could spell disaster for them if the same trend is repeated when voters go to the polls on June 14.

In a study published today Professor Richard Rose, of the Centre for the Study of Public Policy at Strathclyde, points out that the Conservatives would lose 12 seats in England on the basis of this month's by-elections.

That pessimistic view is not shared by Conservative campaign managers. They argue that all sorts of other factors, such as turn-out and organizational abilities, will work to their advantage. They concede privately, however, that half a dozen seats are highly vulnerable. They include both Birmingham and Midlands West which covers the Wolverhampton area.

Outside the urban marginals, most Conservative candidates

The campaign proper for next month's European elections gets under way today with the publication of the Conservative and Labour manifestos. The Social Democratic Party-Liberal Alliance and the regional and special interest parties have already published their programmes. In the first of four articles on Britain's 81 Euro-constituencies, David Cross analyses the difficulties confronting the main political parties contesting the 66 seats in England.

are sitting pretty however unpopular Margaret Thatcher's Government may prove to be. About 40 of the 55 seats held by Conservative members in the outgoing European Parliament are so safe that it would take a shift in public opinion of cataclysmic proportions to remove them.

They range from London South-West with a majority of just 15 per cent (based on the June, 1983, general election figures) to the two fortresses of West Sussex and Surrey West with huge majorities of more than 30 per cent over the SDP-Liberal Alliance.

In rural England, the biggest challenge to Conservative candidates is likely to come from the Alliance which will be fighting its first European election campaign. But although Alliance candidates may emerge as strong runners-up in many constituencies, only in Cornwall and Plymouth do they stand any realistic chance of capturing a seat from the Conservatives.

On the basis of Professor Rose's calculations the prospect for Labour is fairly rosy if it can mobilize its supporters. As a result partly of boundary changes since the 1979 European elections and an advance by the Alliance it could almost double its representation in Strasbourg from 11 to 21 seats in England, he calculates.

Against that, only about half the seats held by Labour can be regarded as totally safe. With the exception of London North East, they are all to the north of Conservative-held Derbyshire. The most crucial test for Labour will be Greater Manchester West, which was won by the Conservatives in 1979 with a thin margin.

The Labour candidate this time is Mrs Barbara Castle, perhaps Britain's best known MP in Strasbourg and, more important, the leader of the Labour delegation in the European Parliament. She has been forced to fight that marginal, which on the basis of the

general election results would have had a Labour majority of just more than 3 per cent, because of boundary changes.

Only two of the seats won by Labour in 1979 might conceivably fall to the Alliance. These are Northumbria, and Leeds, where the Alliance and the Conservatives mounted strong challenges last June.

The greatest challenge for the forthcoming campaign will be to persuade voters to turn out on June 14.

The latest Gallup poll indicated that only 13 per cent of the electorate were aware of the election at the beginning of last week. But the same opinion survey also found that 81 per cent of its sample would certainly go to the polls.

Sir Henry Plumb, leader of the Conservative delegation to the European Parliament, conceded last week that many farmers were extremely angry about the deal and that could lead to abstentions among potential supporters.

But such problems pale into insignificance against Labour's task of trying to explain to its supporters why they should bother with an institution which the party was intent on withdrawing only a year ago.

Studies in Public Policy No 128 - European Parliament constituencies in Britain 1984. Tomorrow: Scotland.

Timing and terms still undisclosed

Zia stands firm on election pledge

From Michael Hamlyn

Islamabad

The military dictator of Pakistan, President Zia-ul-Haq, is holding fast to his plans for elections for a controlled return to democracy by March, 1985.

Basking in the afterglow of the visit by the US Vice-President, Mr George Bush - the highest level visit since President Nixon called in 1969 - General Zia declared that the project was proceeding.

"Does the programme stand?" Answer affirmative", he said.

"And yes, in block capitals". A soft drink on the table before him as he waited at Lahore airport, the General indicated, however, that the pain of election, like the taste of unpleasant medicine, was likely to be minimized by an uncommonly swift approach.

"We are looking forward, or we are planning for, a short election campaign", he said. But in addition to a short election campaign he is also planning to allow only a short time for opposition to his plans for the basis of those elections.

"We will announce all these in a package", he said. "In other words, all the decisions which are announced at one time. Elections will be held on such and such a date; election campaign starts on such and such date, closes on such and such date, polls on such and such date."

By "the basis for the elections" the military regime means whether or not political parties will be allowed to contest them, and who will be qualified to vote or stand for election.

"Qualifications and disqualifications will be laid down by the present Government", the President said, making it plain that the return to democracy was likely to be very carefully controlled indeed.

"We have a list of disqualifications, which I will not be able to give you at this time", he added. "It certainly will not be a disqualification for a person to have been a member of any



President Zia: Keeping cards close to his chest

political party, or even an office-bearer."

Would it be a disqualification to have been in jail during the recent political disturbances?

"I am sure you know that people here consider it to be a qualification", the President smiled. But he made clear that no political leader or party member would be disqualified - as such.

It is also clear that President Zia and the generals who form the Government have already decided when the elections will be, but are playing it close to the

chest. "Although I know and we have discussed it among ourselves - I'm afraid it will not be appropriate to give out the programme as yet", he said.

Also still not clear is the exact role of the so-called National Security Council. The President denies that it will be a way of enabling the military to continue controlling affairs.

"I stated that the armed forces will have no additional role in the constitution. The National Security Council has nothing to do with

the armed forces' role - as such", he said.

Then he added, opaquely: "The National Security Council is envisaged to be a supreme security council, which is to take certain decisions, and to help the Government and the President in arriving at certain critical decisions, in only special circumstances."

The President, who is also Chief Martial Law Administrator, is concerned to improve relations with India, and to that end welcomed the visit to Pakistan at the weekend of the Indian Foreign Secretary (the senior civil servant in the External Affairs Ministry), Mr M. K. Rasgotra.

The President expects some progress to be made on the no-war pact (offered by Pakistan) of the treaty of friendship and cooperation (counter-offered by India). The two are more or less identical, according to the President, except for two clauses - one which requires a guarantee that no foreign bases be established, the other that all issues be settled bilaterally.

"We feel that these two clauses are unnecessary, unwarranted and tantamount to undermining Pakistan's authority. No sovereign state can ever expect to agree to such clauses", he said.

He would also like to see a reduction of tension on the Indo-Pakistan border. Both countries have heavy concentrations of troops facing each other across the frontier. According to General Zia, "Pakistan has not developed any additional bases out there, but India in the past five or ten years has developed military posts, cantonments, built new airfields, and has thus created conditions which are of great concern to us from a security point of view."

The President says he has urged Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, to make some withdrawals of troops.

"But", he said reflectively, "we received no answer."

Ministers' workload 'too big for anyone'

By Peter Hennessy

The Prime Minister and Cabinet ministers are overburdened by the British system of government and should take more time off, Lord Rothschild, former head of the Central Policy Review Staff, the Think Tank, said last night.

Speaking on BBC Radio 3's *The Politics of Thinking*, Lord Rothschild said the workload of a minister "is too much for any individual to cope with."

God knows who tells the Prime Minister, "look, it's time you took a couple of days off," Lord Rothschild said if he was still in charge of the Think Tank (it was disbanded last year by Mrs Thatcher) he would suggest to Sir Robert Armstrong, Secretary of the Cabinet, that they jointly construct an early warning system for the ministers. He had tried to build one during Mr Heath's premiership.

"I am quite sure that he [Sir Robert] and I could concoct a method. ... You get a lot of

false alarms, you get a lot of weird things. ... I don't think it would be too difficult", he added.

Verdict on Blunt

Lord Rothschild spoke publicly for the first time in the radio interview about the late Anthony Blunt, his former friend and wartime colleague in MI5.

"It was a very serious blow to me when I was told that Blunt was a traitor. I lost confidence in my ability to judge people. ... He must have led a highly compartmentalized life and almost a schizophrenic existence because I never saw it."

Of Guy Burgess, the diplomat who defected to Moscow in 1951, Lord Rothschild said: "He was a drunk, very dirty in his habits, rather clever, quite amusing and good company; in no circumstances would I have ever given him a job."

Credit card for private medicine

By Our Social Services Correspondent

Britain's largest commercially based private hospital group, American Medical International, which has nine hospitals, to introduce treatment on credit from July.

A credit card will allow patients who are uninsured, or underinsured, to pay in monthly instalments.

The card will cover conventional medicine, surgery and items often excluded from insurance cover, dentistry, cosmetic surgery and childbirth. It is also hoped to stimulate outpatient services, such as health screening and preventative medicine.

The company said that interest charges would be lower than for most credit cards. "The aim is to allow people who are not insured, and who cannot afford or do not want to afford to pay for private treatment all at once, to spread the cost and still have private care."

Potency of rabies jab in doubt

Evidence that the new human-cell-based rabies vaccine is less potent than thought is to be considered by the Government's expert advisory body, the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunization.

The move came after a study in the United States, reported in *The Lancet*, which suggests that the new vaccine's ability to produce antibodies to rabies may have declined, or be more variable than was thought.

The new vaccine is much less painful and produces fewer side effects than the old animal-cell-based vaccine, which was used only to treat people who had been bitten by an animal that might be rabid. Unlike the old vaccine, it is used to protect people in advance, not just as a treatment after exposure.

Although anyone who is bitten is told to have post-exposure treatment - rabies is almost invariably fatal once symptoms develop - the United States researchers say their findings are extremely worrying.

The study was launched after an American Peace Corps volunteer who had been vaccinated died from rabies after being bitten and failing to seek further treatment.

Daily Mail complaint is upheld

The *Daily Mail* printed an unsubstantiated story that the Labour leader, Mr James Callaghan, had been seen in a London borough council building, encouraged staff to "spend, spend, spend", and gave him no recognizable opportunity to refute the allegations, the Press Council said in an adjudication published today.

The council upheld this complaint by Mr Martin Coleman, then leader of Brent Borough Council, and a further complaint that the newspaper's offer to publish a short letter rather than an editorial retraction was an inadequate remedy.

The story said staff employed by a Labour-controlled council had been told there was virtually a bottomless pit of cash to spend. It said the "socialists of Brent" were planning to spend in the next fortnight nearly £2m because they might lose power after the defection of a Labour councillor. The idea was to sabotage a Conservative proposal to reduce the rates if the party gained power.

Papua bans press from border with Indonesia

From Tony Dubondin

Melbourne

Sensitivity over its relationship with Indonesia has prompted Papua New Guinea to ban journalists from its border with the Indonesian province of Irian Jaya and introduce strict regulations for visiting journalists.

Under the regulations announced by Mr Rabbie Namulul, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, journalists will be required to give a month's notice of their visit and provide details of people they will be interviewing in Papua New Guinea. Mr Namulul said the guidelines had been issued after "recent difficulties in monitoring the activities and movements of foreign journalists in the country."

Port Moresby has been embarrassed by foreign journalists' interviews with leaders of the Free West Papua Army in the border area. The guerrillas are waging a campaign against Indonesian forces in Irian Jaya, and Papua New Guinea is concerned that interviews with rebel leaders taken place on its side of the border.

The border issue has been a constant source of irritation between the two countries since Papua New Guinea became independent. In March, Port Moresby alleged that two Indonesian aircraft had crossed the border and circled a border post.

Indonesia denied the incident, but relations between the countries sank to a new low. Papua New Guinea has about 6,000 refugees from the conflict in Irian Jaya. Last week, Mr Michael Somare, the Prime Minister, tried to put the problem into the international arena by giving the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees two weeks to persuade Indonesia to accept UN involvement.

If the UN fails to win Jakarta's approval Papua New Guinea will start sending back the refugees.

Asian immigrant flow worries Australians

From Our Correspondent

Melbourne

The issue of Asian immigration to Australia has surfaced again with the publication on Saturday of an opinion poll which showed that 62 per cent of Australians disapprove of the increasing proportion of immigrants coming from Asia compared with Britain and Europe.

The poll was published in the *Melbourne Herald* and was based on a sample of 2,053 people throughout the country.

While 62 per cent disapprove of the present immigration mix, only 30 per cent approve while 8 per cent believe that the total number of immigrants this year, about 90,000, is too great, and 4 per cent say it is too small.

Mr Andrew Peacock, the Leader of the Opposition, described the poll as a warning to the Government to heed public opinion.

Generals will only step down if their terms are met

The military rulers of one of the few repressive regimes surviving in South America are getting ready to hand over to the civilians. But, as Douglas Tweedale reports in the first of two articles, they still want to keep a grip on the levers of power.

Whether Uruguay's military rulers are to keep their promise to step down from the political stage they have dominated for the past 11 years appears to hinge on how graceful an exit they are able to make from an increasingly hostile situation.

The armed forces - as politically unpopular as any of the few military regimes remaining in South America - are determined not to suffer the same fate as their counterparts in neighbouring Argentina, who were driven out of power in disgrace and left out in the cold (for them) of a nascent democracy.

President Gregorio Alvarez has promised elections for November 25 to return this nation at the mouth of the River Plate to civilian rule - but these elections are dependent on the influence in the ensuing government.

On May 1 while the country's unions staged a massive rally which drew an estimated 250,000 people, al-

lowed to operate legally a proposal for negotiations about certain constitutional reforms the generals would like implemented before they hand over power.

These include a formal advisory role in government for the National Security Council, institutionalizing the jurisdiction of military courts over civilians and restricting guarantees of personal liberty in cases of subversion. They

would also include the continued political proscription of certain individuals and parties considered too left-wing.

The latest proposal is a more palatable version of similar reforms the military has tried to introduce without success on two other occasions. In 1980, a national plebiscite overwhelmingly rejected a more stringent version of the same reforms. Last June, the three legal parties broke off talks on

constitutional reform because of the Government's intransigence on what it called national security issues.

By proposing that the new reforms would be subject to review by a national constitutional convention to be elected in November, the military seems to be trying to tempt civilian leaders back to the negotiating table. "Most of the military really want to get out of government," one Western diplomat said. "This (latest) proposal is a very clever way to do it and get the guarantees they feel they need."

But the generals have at the same time tightened the screws on political expression. In a way, opposition leaders say, which belies their stated intention of dialogue. Since mid-April, the Government has closed seven daily and weekly newspapers (four permanently). Taken legal action against several editors, and two weeks ago, closed one of Montevideo's television stations for broadcasting an interview with an unauthorized left-wing politician.

A military sweep the Government claimed was aimed at "subversives" in a remote countryside village led to the arrest of six people.

Machines of war awake new pride

By Stewart Tendler

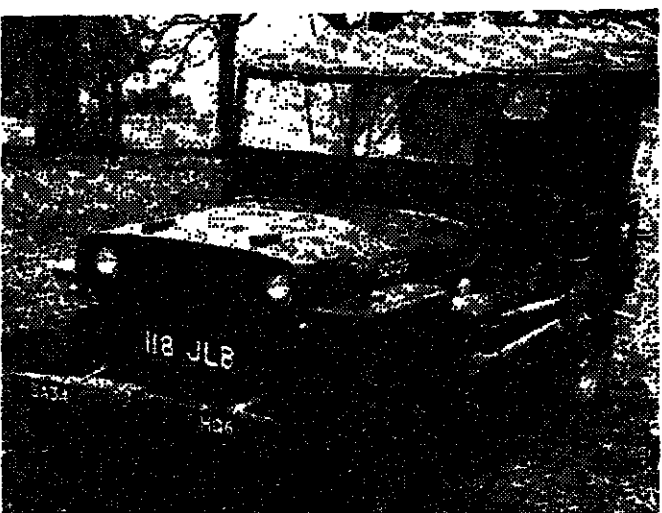
Forty years ago this week many English lanes echoed to the whining gears of a Jeep or the rumble and thunder of a Sherman tank preparing for the great adventure on the other side of the Channel.

But what was once commonplace has now become worthy of extensive salvage, as in the case of the 32-ton tank raised last weekend from the seabed off Torcross Sands where it came to grief practising for the Normandy landings in 1944.

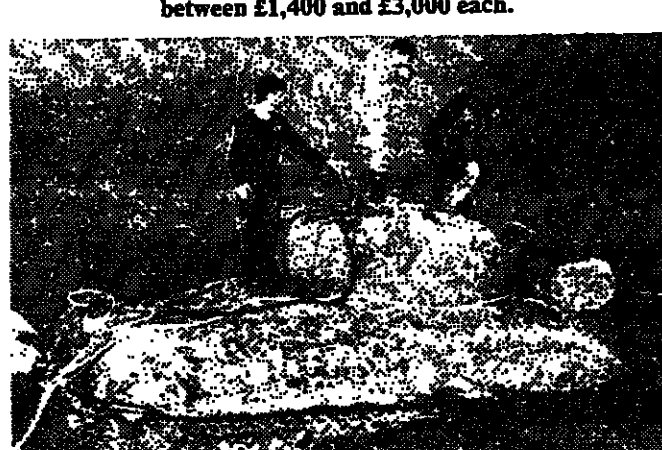
The tank was raised by Mr Kenneth Small, a Devon hotelier, who bought the right to salvage the vehicle from the United States Government for 50 dollars (about £35). Since the purchase 12 years ago Mr Small has spent £3,000 to get the tank from the seabed to become a memorial to American Servicemen who died practising for the D-Day landings.

The tank sank to 50 feet below the surface after falling from a landing craft in a training exercise in south Devon. It was raised using a diving ship which dragged it ashore.

It rejoins a world where the humble Jeep is now worth far more than its value in wartime.



The wartime Jeep: Two or three are sold each week at between £1,400 and £3,000 each.



Monster from the deep: A 32-ton Sherman tank is winched ashore after 40 years submerged.

Murder accused faces child-stealing charges

A Reading lorry driver was accused of three additional charges, of child stealing, when he appeared before Barking magistrates in Essex on Saturday charged with murdering Marie Payne, aged four.

The new charges refer to two alleged offences in Ilford, Essex, on May 6, and one in John Fisher Street, east London on the same date. In the first two Evans was charged that he unlawfully intended to deprive the father of possession of a child aged under 14, and the third charge that he intended to deprive the mother of possession of the child.

Parliament this week

Commons, Today 10.30: Debate on the subject of Access to Information Bill. 11.30: Debate on the subject of the Government's proposals for the reform of the law relating to the death penalty. 2.30: Local Government Bill. 3.30: Local Government Bill. 4.30: Local Government Bill. 5.30: Local Government Bill. 6.30: Local Government Bill. 7.30: Local Government Bill. 8.30: Local Government Bill. 9.30: Local Government Bill. 10.30: Local Government Bill. 11.30: Local Government Bill. 12.30: Local Government Bill.

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Discipline in our Prisons

The Home Secretary has set up a committee to look into the prison disciplinary system - how alleged offences against prison discipline are investigated and dealt with.

Your views are sought. For details on how to submit them, ring 01-213 5237/4158. Or write to: The Secretary, Mr A.D. Burgess, Home Office, Room 1106, Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AT.

European Notebook

End-of-term report on Strasbourg

It is end-of-term report time for the first directly elected European Parliament, which starts its last session in Strasbourg today. As most of the 434 representatives of the EEC's 191,313,000 electors gather in their permanent temporary home by the banks of the River Ill, they will be trying to give final proof that they have given good value for the £600m or so they have cost Community taxpayers over the past five years.

Kabul drags its heels on peace terms

From Our Own Correspondent

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Fighting
Iraq attacks
attempt
West in
Tankers
Iran turns
pay master
German
bitter

Fighting shifts to shipping lanes

Iraq attacks vessels in attempt to embroil West in the Gulf war

From Zoriana Pysarski, New York

Diplomatic observers at the United Nations of the Gulf war are convinced that the Iraqi attacks on vessels passing through the Gulf are the latest in a series of moves designed to provoke a Western military intervention in the 15-month-old conflict.

The Iraqi sinking of oil tankers and a merchant ship follows a pattern which began with the intensified bombing of Iranian civilian targets in February and the indiscriminate use of chemical weapons which, may military analysts feel, was done with little strategic forethought.

While Baghdad has clearly intended to intimidate Iran, it is also believed to have resorted to these tactics in order to focus world attention on a war that, except for bursts and spurts, has been largely ignored internationally. Baghdad now intends to translate this concern into direct action.

Behind this two-fold strategy is the realization that Iraq cannot force Iran to end the fighting alone. At best, the war of attrition could continue indefinitely with mounting political costs to the regime of President Saddam Hussein, and

worst, Iran's heralded "final ground offensive" could succeed when put into motion.

Although the Soviet Union, among others, has been pouring in supplies for the Iraqi war effort, there are many countries in and outside the region which feel that an overwhelming Iraqi success would go against their interests.

Officials involved in trying to mediate in the Gulf war speak of fears voiced even by pro-Iraqi states of either side becoming the strongman of the region, and Iraqi's recognition that outside aid as a last resort could be too little and too late.

With its attack on vessels sailing to or from Kharg Island, the main Iranian oil terminal, Iraq appears to be attempting to provide Iran into closing the Straits of Hormuz, or making it difficult for ships to pass without any formal closure.

So far Iran has not fallen for the bait. In letters to the United Nations, it has accused Iraq of attempting to internationalize the Gulf war, and its careful details of allegations that it hit two tankers last week are seen here as an attempt to avoid being trapped by the Iraq scenario.

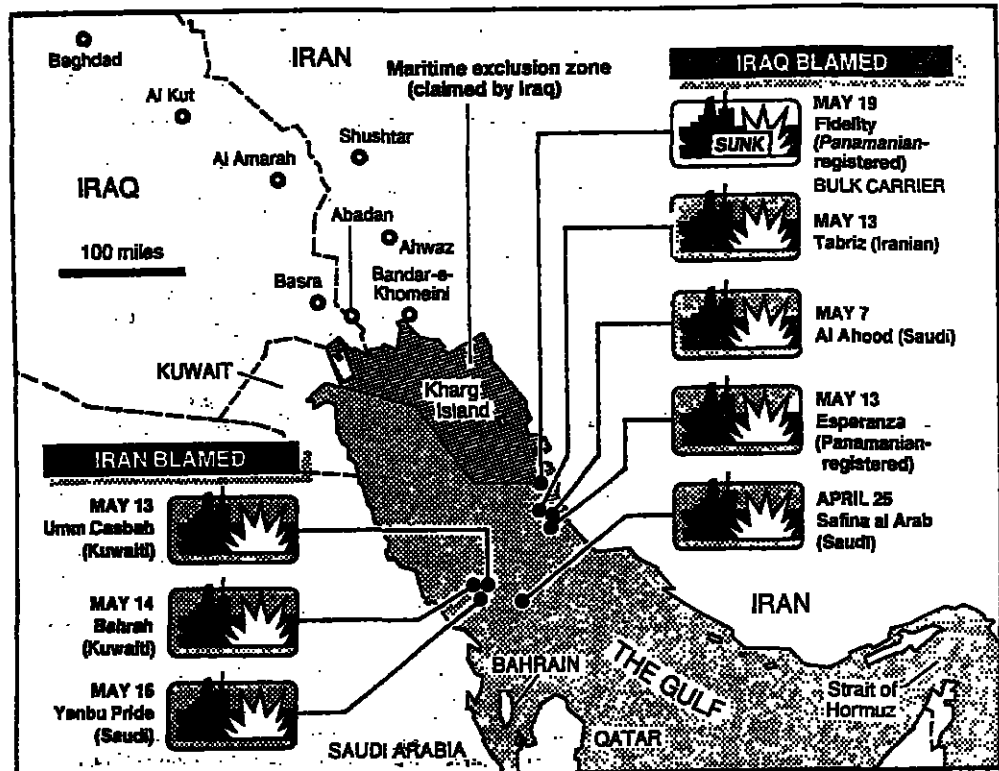
The response to Iraq's use of chemical weapons was universal condemnation but the attacks on vessels raised the possibility of drawing the United States and Western allies into the conflict. Given the unpredictable nature of the war, it is believed that even Western air support or escort for vessels could anger Iran into retaliation and embroil the West.

Officials from the Gulf countries who met in emergency session last week to study the options of maintaining free navigation in the Gulf say that awareness of Iraq's strategy is partially responsible for their reluctance to seek third-party intervention.

In making arrangements to take the matter to the United Nations Security Council, they hope to persuade Iraq to end the attacks, although they officially blame Iran for the crisis.

At the same time, should the situation become so desperate as to warrant Western intervention, the Security Council could provide a good moral cover, even though Soviet acquiescence in a direct Western role is difficult to imagine.

Tankers hit in the Gulf



Iran turns on its enemy's paymasters in tit-for-tat

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

Last week's spate of Iranian and Iraqi attacks on shipping in the Gulf constitutes a marked shift of emphasis away from the land warfare between the two nations, which only two months ago was absorbing attention.

The increased anxiety about the security of oil supplies through the Gulf has arisen as a result of an apparent change of tactics by the Iraqis.

They have for many months been attacking shipping in the maritime exclusion zone which they had declared around the Iranian terminal of Kharg Island. These attacks had only limited success and made little impression on world opinion. Now, however, they have attacked three tankers outside the exclusion zone and close to the Iranian coast.

These attacks have been more effective, possibly because they were carried out well clear of defences at Kharg Island, and perhaps also because the Iraqis may have learnt to make more effective use of their Exocet missiles.

The obvious explanation for the Iranian attacks on Saudi and Kuwaiti tankers is that they could not let the latest Iraqi air attacks go unanswered and they felt they could achieve the maximum effect by striking at shipping belonging to Iraq's paymasters. With probably fewer than 30 serviceable F4 Phantom aircraft, using outdated weapons, the Iranians are not seen as having the capacity to wage a prolonged air campaign.

In any case, even with the short reaction times available for countering attacks across the Gulf, the Saudis with their effective American-supplied F15 Eagle interceptors, and four American-operated A-7 Corsair aircraft to provide early warning, ought to be able to prevent their shipping being shot up.

The balance of air power against the Iranians would, of course, become much more severe should the Saudis or other countries in the area seek American combat air support, and agree to provide the bases for them.

This, however, does not appear immediately in prospect, and the hope is that last week's incidents may prove to have been no more than a flurry of activity, and that diplomatic pressure may cause it to subside.

One of the mysteries of this 44-month conflict is that there is at present relatively little activity on land. In February and early March, Iranian attacks on Iraqi positions in the southern sector of the front, around Al Amarah and Basra, were putting the Iraqi defences under severe pressure.

Although Iranian gains were small, the Iraqi forces were seen to be off-balance, and a much larger Iranian assault was expected.

Iraq had, and still has, at least 250,000 men assembled to the east, ready to attack. For no clear reason, that assault failed to materialize, and the Iranians may now have missed their best chance of achieving a breakthrough.

West German strikes enter bitter phase

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

With the stepping up of strikes in the engineering industry and the first lockouts by employers, West Germany's industrial disputes enter a new and bitter phase this week.

Some 33,000 metalworkers in the state of Hesse are joining the strike today as car production all over the country comes to a standstill. Tomorrow the engineering employers will respond by locking the factory gates to 65,000 workers in the Stuttgart area who are not on strike but who are members of IG Metall, the huge metal and engineering union which is leading the toughly-fought campaign for a 35-hour week.

The two sides are expected to have another round of talks in the next few days after the union accepted an offer by the employers to sit down again at the negotiation table.

Meanwhile, other unions have threatened to join in the strike wave out of sympathy for the metalworkers and in response to the call by the German trade unions federation.

The militant printers' union, IG Druck, went on strike again at newspaper printing plants over the weekend, leaving much of Germany without the usual

bumper Saturday editions and preventing the Axel Springer press from publishing newspapers on Sunday, except in very limited edition.

Other unions which have declared themselves ready to take action are the bank employees, the railway workers and those representing workers in the chemical, ceramics and food industries.

The decision by the employers to enforce lockouts has undoubtedly worsened the atmosphere, as has the announcement by the Federal Labour Bureau that workers laid off as a result of the strike, though not themselves on strike, will not be entitled to unemployment benefit.

The employers said their measures, intended to put financial pressure on IG Metall, are essential: otherwise the union would have enough funds to cripple the car industry through selective strikes at key component factories for up to two years.

IG Metall has a strike fund of DM 425m, and last week had to pay only about DM 4m to 13,000 workers it originally called out on strike in component factories in the Stuttgart area.

Doctors in Finland end stoppage

From Olli Kivinen, Helsinki

Finland's doctors ended their seven-week strike yesterday after their union had accepted the second and slightly improved compromise offer from the state mediator, Mr Teuvo Kallio.

The doctors caused an uproar last week by rejecting Mr Kallio's first proposal. They were seeking a pay rise well above the two-year general wages agreement accepted by almost all the main unions. But the doctors were able to negotiate increases of up to 1350 a month for the next two and a half years.

Public sector medical care was affected by the strike, but the situation did not become desperate because doctors continued working in private practice. Urgent work was also done in hospitals, although the strike did delay treatment of serious illnesses.

The settlement coincided with the end of a series of strikes by white collar groups affiliated to Akava, which fights to get its educated members higher pay than the manual unions.

Botha keen to buy British planes

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

Mr P. W. Botha, the South African Prime Minister, is expected to press for the sale of eight British Aerospace maritime surveillance aircraft to his Government when he lunches with Mrs Margaret Thatcher in two weeks' time.

But his plan, which was leaked at the week-end would add to the already considerable controversy over his visit, the first by a South African Prime Minister for more than 20 years. The aircraft involved is said to be the 748 twin-engine turbo-prop, which came into service 21 years ago and has been bought by both British Airways and the RAF.

The RAF version is best known as the Andover, three of which form part of the Queen's Flight used by the Royal Family and senior ministers. The South Africans want to buy them, together with sophisticated electronic surveillance equipment, in a package which would be worth more than £50m to Britain.

Pretoria hopes that by buying equipment for its coastguard service it might circumvent the United Nations arms embargo of seven years ago - and satisfy the Whitehall criterion that no British exports to Pretoria should be of a kind which might be used for counter-insurgency operations.

British Aerospace sources said that with several hundred 748s in service throughout the world, the South Africans could easily buy some second-hand and refurbish them in their Atlas Corporation factories. But a counterblast from the Third World could mean that Britain, and British Aerospace in particular, could lose more than they would gain by such a controversial deal.

South Africa has already tried unsuccessfully to buy the much bigger and more sophisticated Nimrod maritime surveillance plane from Britain.

Excitement at Isabel's return

From Douglas Tweedale, Buenos Aires

The political passions aroused by the name Peron in Argentina flickered briefly again yesterday as ex-President Maria Estela Martinez (Isabel) returned from her Madrid home on the eve of key political negotiations with President Raul Alfonsín.

Dozens of Peronist dignitaries and hundreds of rowdy supporters turned out at Buenos Aires airport to greet the inscrutable Señora Peron, who has kept her political intentions a closely guarded secret.

Other groups of supporters cheered her along the 30 minute drive into the city centre and mounted a colourful vigil, waving banners, banging bass drums and scuffling with police outside the hotel where she is staying.

Señora Peron is to represent the party which bears her late husband Juan Peron's name at the first of a round of talks which President Alfonsín has called with opposition parties this evening.

The purpose of the talks, according to Government officials, is to reach a minimum national consensus on a strategy to solve the country's principal economic and political problems.

In a speech on Thursday



Back home: Señora Peron walks through customs at Buenos Aires airport

night, Señor Antonio Tróccoli, the Interior Minister, topped the agenda on the Administration, agenda would be to seek agreement on renegotiation of the country's \$43.6 billion (£31 billion) foreign debt, which he called "a problem . . . which we must remove from the cold and

speculative environment of the bankers and give a response as a nation."

Señor Tróccoli said the meeting with Señora Peron's party would also touch on the issue of inflation which is running at over 500 per cent

Jackson turns Virginia defeat into victory

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

Mr Walter Mondale narrowly defeated the Rev Jesse Jackson in a state convention at the weekend to select Virginia's 78 delegates to the Democratic national convention in July. Senator Gary Hart was soundly beaten.

Mr Mondale captured 27, Mr Jackson 22 and Mr Hart 23. There were 16 uncommitted delegates. The result was a triumph for Mr Jackson, whose presence in the race helps explain the exceptional activism by black voters.

Salvadorean Government blamed for killings

By Our Foreign Staff

The Government of El Salvador has been accused by Amnesty International of murdering many of the estimated 40,000 people killed in political violence there in the past five years.

A 48-page report entitled *Extrajudicial Executions in El Salvador* by the international human rights movement's mission, which last July carried out an on-the-spot investigation of the killings, is published today. The mission found that government forces openly dumped mutilated corpses in heavily patrolled areas near police or military establishments in an

apparent attempt to terrorize the population. One factor that suggested it was the authorities themselves who were responsible for the slaughter was their "blatant failure" to investigate, and to bring those responsible to justice.

Members of human rights monitoring groups that had tried to collect data were themselves "victims of such abuses as disappearances and killings."

Amnesty International, British Section, 5 Roberts Place, Bowling Green Lane, London EC1R 0EJ. £2.00 plus 50p postage.

Canada jails terrorist for 20 years

Ottawa - Juliet Belmas, a 21-year-old British Columbian, has been jailed for 20 years for a series of urban terrorist attacks, including the dynamiting of a Toronto factory, which manufactured guidance systems for cruise missiles. Ten people were injured in the Toronto blast in October, 1982 (John Best writes).

Gerald Hannah, aged 27 and the lover of Belmas, was jailed for 10 years for terrorist acts. Both defendants changed their pleas to guilty halfway through the trial, which lasted 106 days.

Reagan surgery

Washington (Reuters) - Doctors have removed a non-cancerous polyp from President Reagan's colon. After a three-hour medical check at a Maryland naval hospital, he was described by doctors as being "in very exceptional physical condition".

Refugees ousted

Stockholm (AP) - Thirty-four Lebanese refugees, including seven women and 15 children, have been expelled from Sweden. The refugees, who were put on a chartered jet and flown to Damascus, had arrived earlier in the month from East Germany.

Ben Bella pledge

Geneva (AP) - Mr Ahmed Ben Bella Algeria's first President after independence, announced in *La Suisse*, that he intends to make a political comeback two decades after being overthrown in a coup d'état.

1800 debt paid

Bourg St. Pierre (AP) - France has settled a 184-year-old debt, a bill for 45,333 Swiss francs (about £14,000), for damages caused by Napoleon's troops when they moved through this Swiss town in 1800 on their way to Italy.

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Rioting over delayed poll results leaves four more dead in Philippines

From David Watts, Manila

Opposition frustration over delays in the declaration of results and fears of tampering have brought four more deaths in the Philippines elections.

For the past few days unofficial results showing opposition victories have been sharply at odds with official results in the eastern Philippines city of Cebu, a traditional centre of opposition to the Government in Manila. Rumours of rigged balloting have been rife.

Into that explosive atmosphere at the weekend flew one of the leading figures in the opposition, Mr Salvador Laurel. He urged a group of protest marchers to defend their ballots with their lives. They did just that and marched to the city hall where the court was under way, and stoned the building.

Government forces first sprayed water on the youthful protesters but when that ran out they opened fire, and a protest turned into a riot with at least one young policeman dead. Three students were killed and about 17 injured, Mr Laurel said.

Meanwhile, had flown back to Manila.

The outburst caused President Marcos to respond in a national television broadcast at lunchtime yesterday with an appeal to the opposition to calm down.

"Let us see whether it is not this administration that has been terrorized", he said at the beginning of a speech, originally intended to deal with economic problems, which made clear that he is far from reconciled to the gains the opposition has made.

By last night, the official commission on elections calculated that the ruling New Society Movement had won 63 seats, while the figure for the combined opposition and independents was 41, with about 80 seats still undecided. The unofficial count had the ruling party with 72 seats and the combined opposition and independents with 44.

President Marcos, saying that he had never cheated in an election in his life, appealed to the opposition: "Look, you've got enough. Let's settle down."

But things are unlikely to settle down for some considerable time, as the election commission has to deal with 700 complaints and demands from the opposition for the election to be declared void in 16 provinces and three Manila constituencies.

The President said the opposition's success had been largely due to what he called the black media, especially in the cities. "We have to accept the fact that the black press seems to have overwhelmed the legitimate press in the Philippines", he said.

Nor is the President convinced that the election results showed dissatisfaction with Government policies. "I do not believe any of the basic policies of the Government are rejected by the people, but we are doing a survey at the moment to find exactly why they voted the way they did in Manila, or if they really did vote that way. Black propaganda and the black press overcame us in the cities."

Leading article, page 13



Election violence: Police wielding batons attack demonstrators outside the city hall in Cebu yesterday

SPD keeps faith with commitment to Nato

From Michael Binyan, Bonn

West Germany's Social Democrats put a clear halt to any incipient neutralist tendencies in the party by pointedly reaffirming their commitment to Nato and at their congress in Essen roundly criticizing new Soviet deployment of SS 22 missiles in East Germany.

While maintaining their opposition to Western missiles, speakers during the key defence debate described as politically unrealistic demands for their withdrawal as a precondition to further arms talks.

Herr Egon Bahr, the party's disarmament expert, said the situation since the Fyling 2 missiles arrived in Germany last year was worse than even the opponents had feared. But the party now had to look forward and press for deployment to stop, or at least slow down, and for the West to consider the latest Warsaw Pact proposals.

Herr Bahr called for a strengthening of conventional forces to redress reliance on nuclear weapons. He said Nato needed a new grand strategy, based not on weakening the other side but on offering equal security to both East and West in a global context.

A left-wing motion that implicitly criticized Germany's continued membership of Nato was soundly defeated, and the leadership had no difficulty in winning support for a compromise motion calling for a security policy based on gradual renunciation of nuclear deterrence in favour of a conventional defensive strategy.

The Essen congress was the SPD's first full look at itself and its policies as an opposition party since it was first brought into government in 1966. Despite some obvious papering over the cracks in defence policy, the leadership appears to have a broad agreement from the 400 delegates for policies of the moderate left.

Stability and continuity of the generally moderate line hammered out at the decisive Bad Godesberg congress almost 25 years ago was symbolized by the election of Herr Willy Brandt as party chairman. His 20 years in office already make him one of the SPD's longest-serving leaders.

The former Chancellor, Herr Helmut Schmidt, has now left the leadership of the party the long overshadowed, his place as deputy chairman being taken by Herr Hans-Joachim Vogel, the parliamentary leader.

The party appeared to have pushed itself together after the shock of its defeat. For the moment its main task is convincing the Government's sceptics on the industrial front and over the tax evaders' amnesty. The SPD is hoping to dent the Government's confidence at the European elections next month.

● **BARCELONA:** More than 20,000 Spaniards formed a 12-mile hand chain through the streets of Barcelona yesterday demanding Spain's withdrawal from Nato.

Bombay riot toll nears 80

From Kuldip Nayar, Delhi

Hindu-Muslim riots in Bombay and the nearby town of Bhiwandi continued for the third consecutive day yesterday, with the death toll approaching 80. Some 200 people have been injured and 6,000 refugees have been put up in relief camps.

Yesterday, when Mr P. C. Sethi, the Home Minister, flew to Bombay to assess the situation, the sectarian fury had subsided in Bhiwandi but the rioting had spread to more districts of Bombay despite a curfew and the presence of the Army.

In the meantime some harrowing atrocities have come to light. In one incident in Bhiwandi, 20 Muslims were reported to have been burnt alive by a Hindu mob. In another incident a Hindu industrialist who gave shelter to some Muslims at his house was saved by the police when an angry Hindu mob destroyed part of the house. According to Press Trust of India, even children were not spared by the rioters.

"The poor have suffered the most," Mr Vasantdada Patil, the Chief Minister of Maharashtra, said. Hundreds of huts have been burnt and the displaced poor were forced to seek shelter in Government offices, bus stops and schools.

It is believed several apparent provocations started the rioting. Bhiwandi is always tense and it also experienced a Hindu-Muslim riot in 1970 which claimed 500 lives.

● **Rioters shot:** Police opened fire on rioting mobs in Bombay yesterday killing at least five people (AP reports).

Mr Indira Gandhi, the Prime Minister, is to tour Bhiwandi today, it was announced yesterday.

Nigerian trial continues despite lawyers' boycott

From Eddie Iroh, Lagos

The initial phase of the secret trial of Nigerian political detainees has ended its first week in spite of a continuing boycott by lawyers of the Nigerian Bar Association.

After five days of uncertainty as to whether the association's non-binding boycott order had been heeded, a Senior Advocate of Nigeria (the equivalent of a Queen's Counsel), Chief Godwin Ajayi, confirmed to a newspaper in Lagos: "No civilian lawyer has so far appeared before the Lagos zone of the Special military tribunal".

The tribunal, headed by Brigadier Paul Omu, who is also a member of the ruling Supreme Military Council, began sitting in camera last Monday amid tight security and protests by lawyers.

Chief Ajayi will know tomorrow whether a Lagos high court has jurisdiction to hear a suit in which he is seeking to prevent the appearance of three former state governors before the military tribunal because of "adverse pretrial publicity".

Dutch cruise dilemma Lubbers offers an alternative solution

From Robert Scholl, Amsterdam

After intense pressure from its Nato allies over the past week, The Netherlands demonstrated again this weekend the divisive nature of the cruise missile issue.

For the first time, Mr Ruud Lubbers the Christian Democrat Prime Minister, spoke out in public in favour of the so-called crisis alternative. This would mean that Woenstrecht air force base in the south of the country would be brought in to readiness to accommodate the 48 cruise missiles scheduled for deployment, but the missiles themselves would only be flown in if a crisis occurred in East-West relations.

Mr Bert de Bries, the parliamentary leader of the Christian Democrats, the senior partner in the centre-right coalition with the conservative Liberals, has said that this alternative is as far as his group is prepared to go in accepting the missiles. The Liberals have given a warning that even this is unacceptable and would lead to political crisis.

Illustrating the deep divisions in the Christian Democratic Party, Mr Hans van den Broek, the Foreign Minister, said in a radio interview on Saturday that the crisis alternative was not clearly rejected by the Nato allies.

Nevertheless, most observers seem to agree that something resembling this alternative will be The Netherlands' compromise on the deployment issue. While approving in December 1979 Nato's dual track decision for the modernization of intermediate nuclear forces in Europe in response to the Soviet build-up, The Netherlands expressed a reservation as to deployment on Dutch soil, saying that a final decision would be taken in the light of progress made at the Geneva talks between the United States and Soviet Union.

Those in the country in favour of deployment argue that such a decision is justified because of the Soviet withdrawal from the Geneva talks. The opposition, however, says that nothing should be done to jeopardize the possible resumption and success of the talks.

The Cabinet must find a formula to satisfy both groups. Opinion polls indicate that if elections were held now, the Christian Democrats could lose as many as 10 of their 45 seats in the 150-seat Lower House, which would benefit the labour opposition, already the largest political party, with 47 seats. This is hardly tempting for the coalition as it would mean the end of its six-seat majority.

Nor would it please the Nato Secretary-General, as it would entail a return to power of the Socialists who are adamantly against deployment.

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AIR FRANCE WERE AIMING EVEN HIGHER

Athens row over story about Arab

From Mario Modiano, Athens

Persistent press reports that an Arab is being questioned by the Greek police in connection with recent terrorist attacks in Athens were denied yesterday by Mr Manolis Bousinakis, the Athens police chief.

The Athens Sunday newspaper *Eleftherotypia* claimed in a front-page report that a Greek police officer had tracked down in Rome an Iraqi-born Jordanian who fled from Athens last month after shooting a US Air Force sergeant on the highway to Athens airport.

The man was said to be linked also to the killing of Captain George Tsantes, a US Navy officer, last November, while efforts were in progress to establish if he was also responsible for the murder of Kenneth Whitty, the British Council's deputy representative, in Athens in March.

Eleftherotypia said that the expulsion by Greece of the CIA's deputy station chief in Athens last month had followed pressures exerted by the CIA and Israel's secret service that the prisoner should be surrendered to them.

Lindbergh flies Atlantic again

A bust of Charles Lindbergh, who made the first solo Atlantic flight, which was taken from the American city of St Louis to France at the weekend. The work of the St Louis sculptor Don Wiegand, it will be exhibited in the Musée de l'Air et de l'Espace at Le Bourget, where Lindbergh landed 57 years ago in his aircraft, the Spirit of St Louis.

Craxi goes for votes of confidence

From John Earle, Rome

Signor Bettino Craxi's Government for the second time in 48 hours has tabled a vote of confidence in the Chamber of Deputies to save its decree curbing wage indexation. The first vote, which reaffirmed the coalition parties' support for the decree, was approved on Friday night by 341 votes to 195.

The second vote will override 73 opposition motions relating to the decree which, if debated, would have delayed its approval in the Chamber and made problematic its passage through the Senate by June 16, 80 days after its issue.

Agreement seems on the same subject, despite a scheduled vote of confidence, it failed to get both Houses' approval within that period.

The political atmosphere has deteriorated because Signor Craxi's tactics have aroused not only all-out opposition from the Communists but also doubts among his coalition allies.

UN tries again for Solidarity 11

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

A senior United Nations envoy is expected in Poland this week to make a fresh attempt to negotiate the release of top Solidarity leaders and advisers from jail.

Informed sources said yesterday that the envoy, Señor Emilio de Olivares, a special assistant to the UN Secretary-General, would arrive in Warsaw on Wednesday and stay in a government guest house for several days.

When Señor de Olivares was last in Poland, during the first week of this month, he saw many of the 11 Solidarity leaders and proposed that they accept a government offer to leave the country for between six months and a year. The UN would take over the costs of the trip, which would include the dissidents' families, and, more important, guarantee that they would be able to return to Poland.

The prisoners, suspecting that they would be stripped of their citizenship while abroad and worried about the effect of their departure on the Solidarity underground, turned down the offer.

It is not clear yet whether Señor de Olivares will again hold direct talks with the Solidarity prisoners, who include Mr Jacek Kuron and Mr Adam Michnik. Some diplomats here believe that there have been contacts between the UN and the Vatican on the issue of the prisoners and that this has helped to give new impetus to the talks.

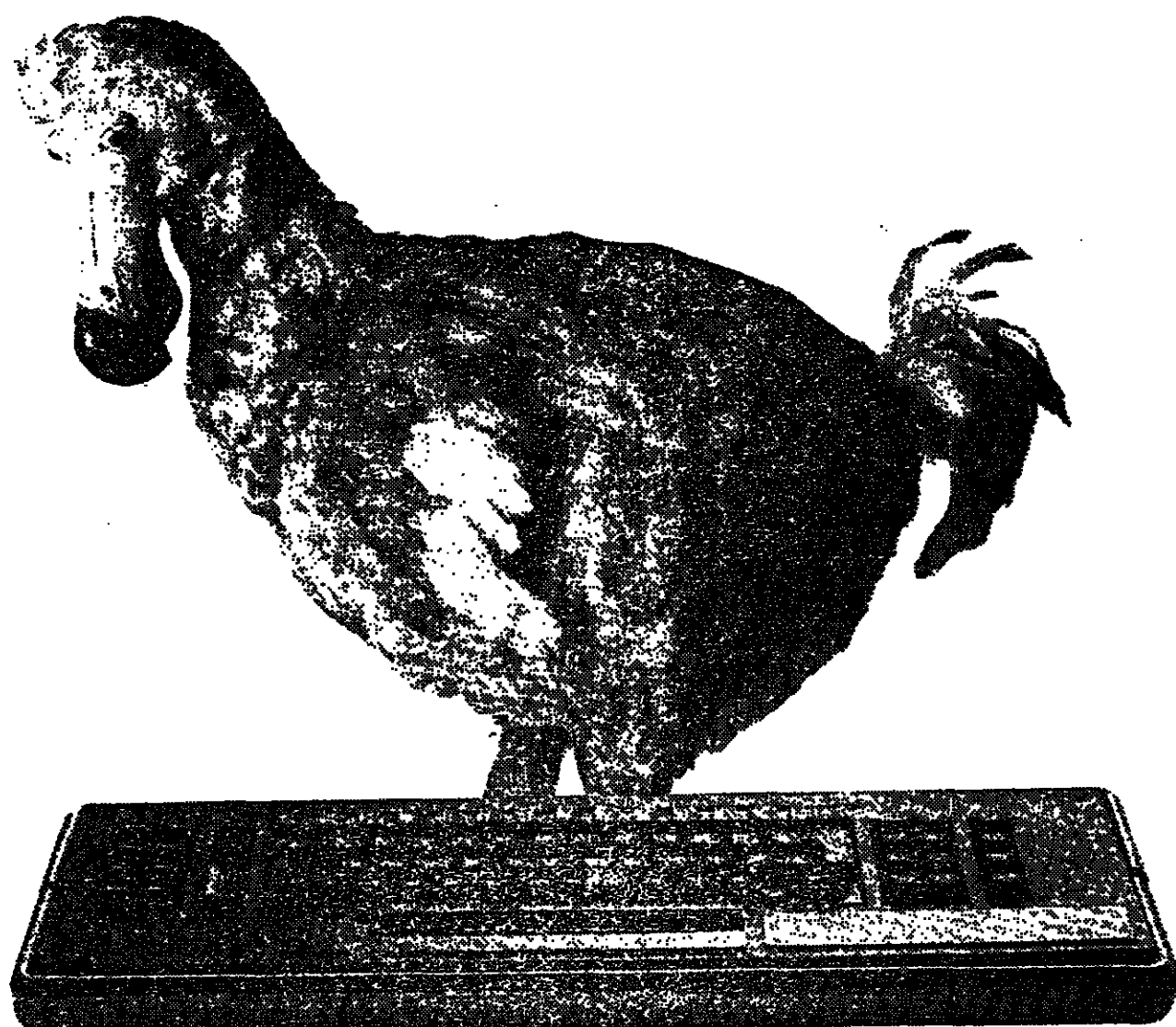
Archbishop Bronislaw Dabrowski, the secretary of the Polish episcopate and chief negotiator on behalf of the Catholic Church hierarchy, travelled to Rome last week to report to the Vatican and was joined by Cardinal Jozef Glemp, the Polish Primate.

The Government seems anxious to avoid a show trial of the Solidarity 11 and appears to be ready to accept most solutions to the problem, provided that it can get guarantees that the Solidarity leaders will not become politically active as soon as they leave the prison gates.

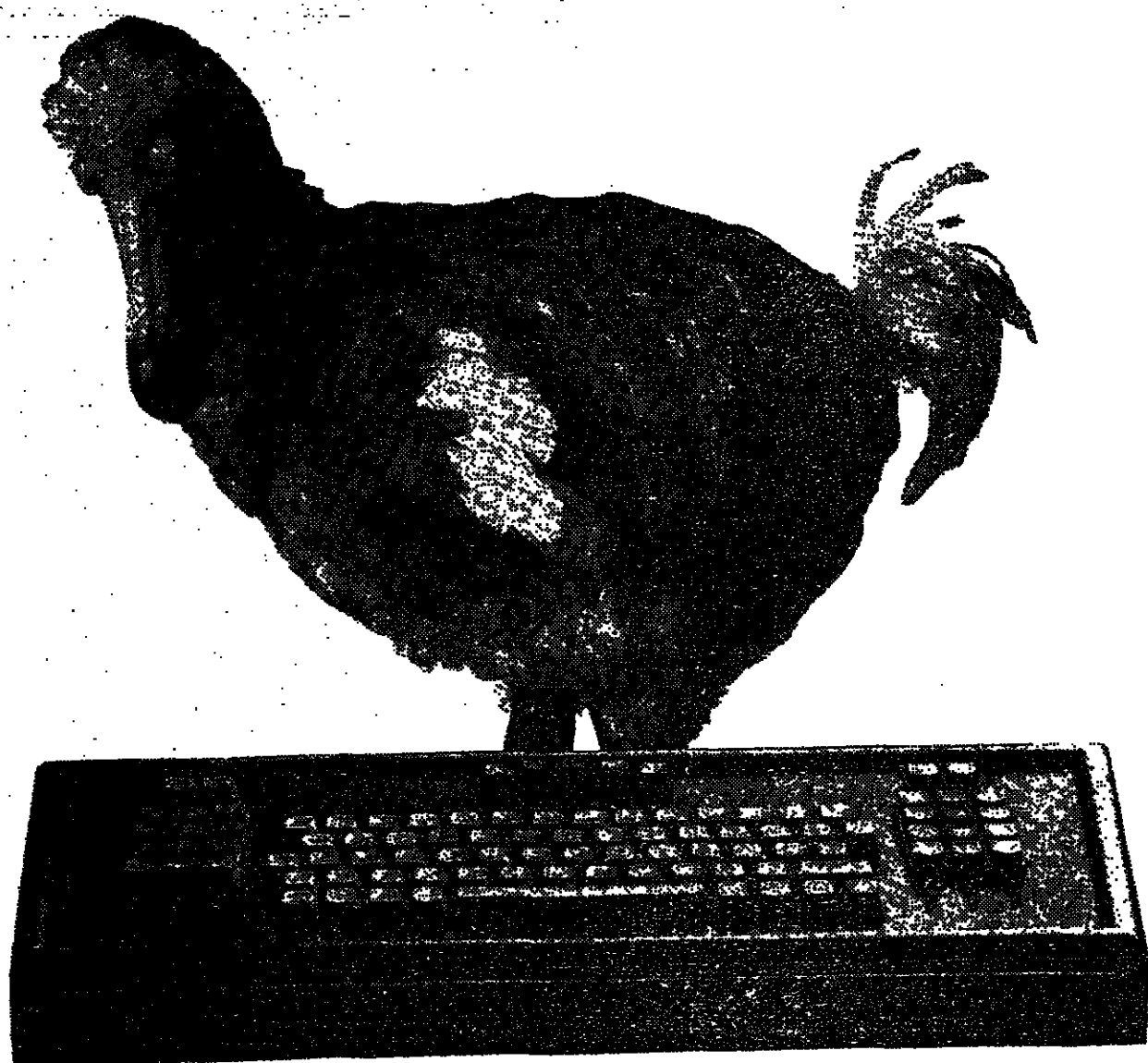
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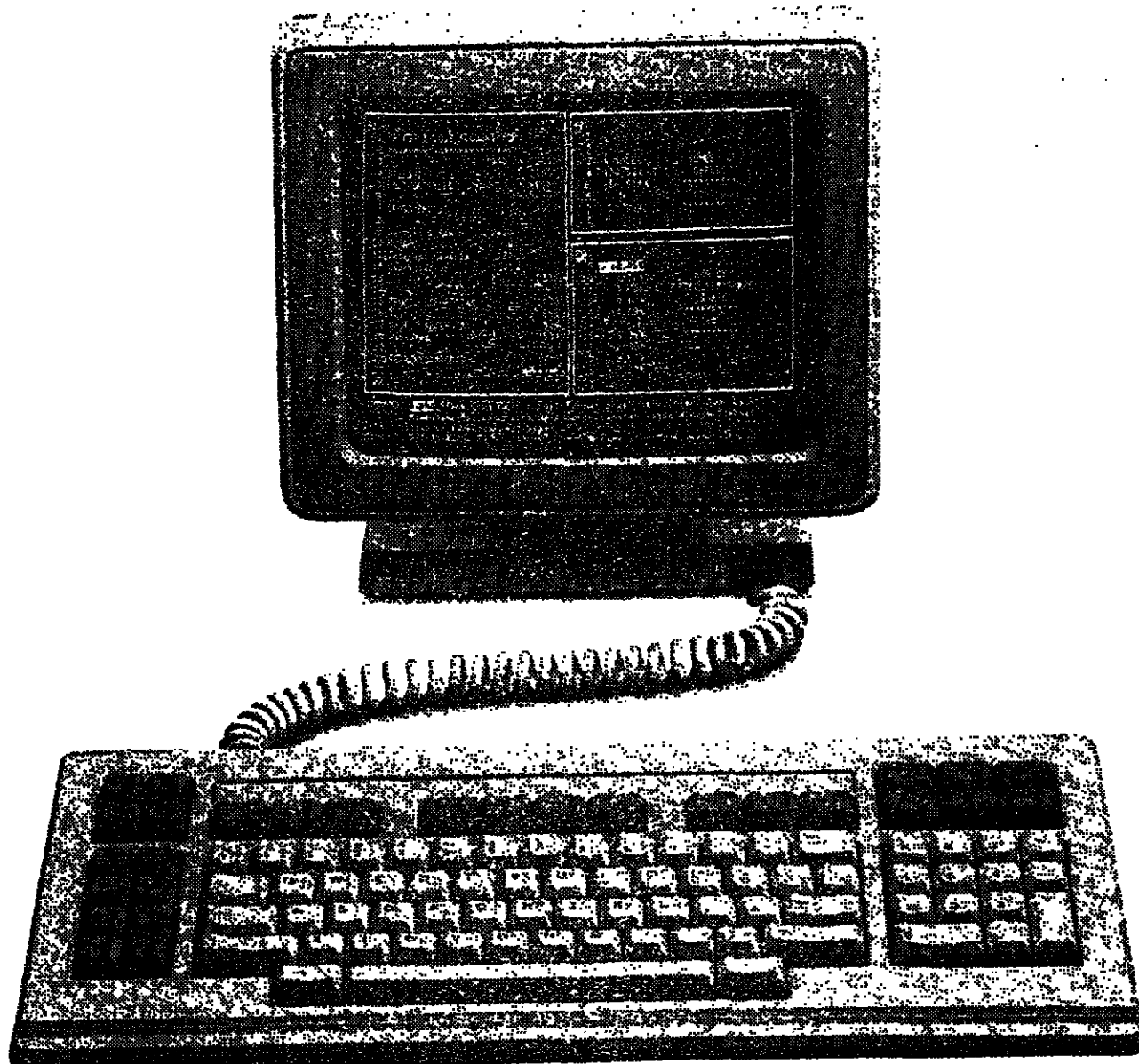
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SPECTRUM

The Solidarity 11, awaiting trial in Rakowiecka jail have been branded dangerous revolutionaries. The reality is different. Poland wants them free but they sit tight dictating terms

The 11 who would be really free

Since Good Friday something odd has been happening in Rakowiecka Street. At any time it is an odd sort of street. At one end - the law and order end - it is dominated by a huge bureaucratic silo, the Interior Ministry, scene of countless interrogations and gentle conversations. A short bus ride away, there is a Jesuit seminary housing some of the most resilient of the church's opponents to the regime and, across the road, in an apartment block where washing rather than patriotic banners hang from the balconies, there is the home of Professor Edward Lipinski, at 96 the grand old man of the dissident movement.

Here, at the non-conformist end of the street, is the Rakowiecka prison, known to its most famous inhabitants, the Solidarity 11, as "The Circus". They have been inside this and other prisons since the declaration of martial law in the winter of 1981, waiting for a show trial that may never happen, the time has eaten into them. They stoop a bit now, the leaders and thinkers of the Solidarity revolution, and their skin has yellowed from too much artificial light. Their charge sheet reads "article 123 in connection with article 128" - preparing to overthrow the system by force - which conjures up an image of hardy desperadoes, ready to destroy socialism as partisans blow up trains.

The physical reality is different. Andrzej Gwiazda, a former deputy, then a challenger to Lech Walesa, is losing his teeth. Marian Jurczyk, once the firebrand leader of Szczecin Solidarity, is being treated for heart problems at the Anin Clinic outside Warsaw. Most of the prisoners suffer from prison diet, although they are allowed food parcels from home. At least one is said to have developed psychological problems. The two main dissidents, Jacek Kuron and Adam Michnik, who have done time in prison before, are coping well enough, but what debilitates the prisoners is not so much the food or the paltry exercise time - half an hour a day - nor the incessant clattering of the air ventilation machines in the

prison kitchen, but the absence of a trial. For over six months the indictment cases prepared - but the defence cases prepared - but the government has proven remarkably coy about trying the men it has branded as dangerous revolutionaries.

But on Good Friday, the government began to show some of its cards. Very rapidly the full paradox of their situation has become apparent. Throughout the world organizations are set up to free political prisoners, publicize their lot, celebrate their martyrdom. In Poland, the government wants to get rid of its embarrassing burden - but the prisoners are refusing to be freed. They will only leave on conditions they consider acceptable.

It began, as usual, with the warden opening the cell door and shouting into the corridors of Rakowiecka's Pavilion 3, "I'm coming out". At this signal, all other doors in the corridor are supposed to slam shut. Then having eliminated the possibility of a chance encounter, the prisoner can be half-led, half-prodded, like a sheep to the dip, into the relatively cleaner air of the corridor for the long shuffle to the visitor's room. But on Good Friday, instead of a meeting with relatives or lawyers, the prisoners were driven one by one, to a government villa in Otwock, a once fashionable area a few dozen kilometres outside the capital.

In some ways the Solidarity 11 live in a cloud of innocence. They have passed the stage of thinking that Poland is on the brink of a revolution waiting only for its standard bearers to emerge from Rakowiecka. They know, through the short bursts of conversation with their lawyers and relatives, that they are important - to Pope John Paul who has been monitoring the church talks for their freedom, to the West who see their release as the most important pointer to the lifting of sanctions, to the government which wants to avoid opening up old wounds with boisterous and well defended show trials, but the trip to Otwock took them by surprise.

Waiting for them, in the most elegant room of the villa, was a



Jacek Kuron. Born 1934. Historian. Co-founder of the Kor dissident group which advised Solidarity.



Andrzej Gwiazda. Born 1935. Electrical engineer from Gdansk. Became deputy chairman of Solidarity ruling council.

Jan Rulewski. Born 1944. Civil engineer. Member Solidarity national leadership. Counted as a radical.

Grzegorz Palika. Born 1950. Research worker at Lodz Polytechnic. Deputy head of Lodz Solidarity. Very active in organizing.

Karol Modzelewski. Born 1937. Employee of the Wrocław branch of Polish Academy of Sciences. Key theoretician Solidarity.

Marian Jurczyk. Born 1935. Welder, strike leader in Szczecin shipyards. Member, Solidarity ruling council.



Andrzej Rozpachowski. Born 1951. Steel mill mechanic, member of Solidarity ruling council.

Seweryn Jaworski. Born 1931. Head of Solidarity chapter in the Warsaw steel works.

Adam Michnik. Born 1946. Historian. Co-founder of Kor group. Sentenced to three years jail after 1983 student riots.

Henryk Wujec. Born 1941. Physicist. Co-founder of Kor. Organizer of aid to persecuted workers after strikes in 1976.

Zbigniew Romaszewski. Born 1943. Physicist. Member of Kor. Helped organize underground resistance.

group of their former colleagues, respected former advisers to Lech Walesa like Professor Bronislaw Geremek and Tadeusz Mazowiecki and prominent defence lawyers like Jan Olszewski. It was a bit like old times when the same group could, in an evening of cigarettes and talk, decide to bring Warsaw to a halt with strikes or demand apologies from the communist leadership. "What?" exclaimed Jan Rulewski who had been told by the warden that he would meet with the authorities. "Do we have a new government?"

Not a new government, but it was a mark of the authorities' eagerness to rid themselves of the Solidarity 11, that they accepted church proposals to appoint former Solidarity advisers, no lovers of General Jaruzelski, to act as intermediaries. The brief was clear enough: the intermediaries should convince the 11 that

the government was acting in good faith. It wanted only a renunciation of political activities for two and a half years and they could be free.

Two problems arose on Good Friday and on subsequent sessions. First, as Adam Michnik expressed it, prisoners should not be negotiators. As free men they could talk with the authorities, but not before. Either the government should put the 11 on trial immediately or release them. There was no middle way: indeed, rarely in Michnik's life was there a middle way when an issue of principle was at stake. He refused on Good Friday and on other occasions to leave his cell.

Secondly, the 11 - or 10, as Michnik had declared his non-participation - had to work out how their release would affect the activities of the fugitive leaders of the Solidarity underground. The underground opposition says that

it is under "temporary" or "provisional" leadership. If the Solidarity leaders were released from Rakowiecka, the underground would probably have to dissolve itself. Worse, if the Rakowiecka leaders accepted any conditions in return for their freedom, they would be politically paralyzed as well. One of the Solidarity 11, Seweryn Jaworski, asked that he might consult the underground leader Zbigniew Bujak. A message was passed from the Otwock villa, and the answer came back soon afterwards - reject the proposals.

The Solidarity prisoners returned to Rakowiecka, toying with the ethical and strategic problems. Most of them genuinely wanted to be free, but they were agreed they would only act as a group. But there was more to come. The May Day Solidarity protests grabbed western headlines again, but it was clear that

far fewer took part than last year. The authorities could thus make concessions to the prisoners without seeming to be bowing to pressure from the streets. On May 2, a United Nations envoy, Emilio de Olivares, arriving at government invitation, started to see the Rakowiecka prisoners. In the exercise yard, to avoid eavesdropping devices in the visitors' room, he made his proposals to Kuron, Henryk Wujec and Zbigniew Romaszewski, all members of the dissident Kor group. The same message was conveyed to all but Michnik: the prisoners could leave, with their families, for the western country of their choice for at least six months, and the United Nations and the Polish government would guarantee their return to Poland. Not forced emigration à la Solzhenitsyn, with the added risk of stripped citizenship, but a kind of study tour.

But the same ethical problems had not disappeared - who do we betray by leaving the country? What would happen to political opposition in Poland? What is freedom without political activity? Although there was disagreement, as ever, between Kuron and Michnik, it became obvious that the Michnik response was the only one available. The intermediaries lost their value, and the initiative for negotiating the freedom of the prisoners passed again to the Catholic church. Archbishop Bronislaw Dabrowski, who leads the talks with the Interior Minister, General Czeslaw Kiszcak, flew to Rome and reported to the Vatican.

There is a slender hope that the Rakowiecka prisoners will be freed without conditions. Moscow, sceptics say, would never approve of this. But Moscow has tolerated far more bizarre events when it comes to dealing with political prisoners. It has swapped Vladimir Bukovsky, a dissident, for a Chilean communist and it allows East Germany to sell prisoners for hard currency to West Germany. The freedom of Lech Walesa, though a perennial embarrassment, shows that potential troublemakers can be contained. Above all, the Polish authorities would like to have no "political prisoner problem" by July 22, the fortieth anniversary of Polish socialism.

There are few illusions left in or out of Rakowiecka. If an amnesty is declared, and if the Solidarity 11 do benefit from a deal, that does not mean the campaign against the underground will stop.

In the meantime, the Solidarity 11 are lying on their bunks, sharing their cells with black marketers and (they suspect) informers, learning languages and trying to keep their minds alive. They were briefly presented with an ethical choice and they revelled in it. Unless the Church or the United Nations can come up with new ideas in the very near future, it is unlikely that the prisoners will be consulted so intensively again. There will be uncertainty to the last, to the moment when the warden opens the door, shouts "I'm coming out" and takes them to trial or to freedom.

Roger Boyes

moreover... Miles Kington As I have said before

At about 9.30pm last Monday Mr Barry Cryer, the performer and writer, arose in the debating hall of the Cambridge Union and prepared to oppose the motion "There's no business like show business". He walked to the rostrum and said: "Mr President, ladies and gentlemen, I am Barry Cryer, one of the best of the cheaper acts". He then bent over the microphone and shouted, as loud as he could, "Testing".

I know he did this, because I was sitting opposite him at the time, heartily relieved that I had already spoken. But I also know why he did this, and it's worth going into, in case any of my readers are seized with a sudden urge to accept an invitation to speak at the Cambridge Union. I am not a great one for public speaking, but even after a few visits to university unions here and there I realize that student debates tend to draw on three sources: music-hall jokes, sexual innuendo and remarks about members of the union committee. Very often all three coalesce in the form of humorous suggestions that the members of the committee are all sleeping with each other, which seems to bring the house down reasonably efficiently - unless, of course, it's tried by a guest speaker, when it's received in total silence.

Outside these three areas it's harder to construct a speech. As one Cambridge undergraduate confided to me: "We're not bad at delivering jokes. It's thinking them up that stumps us." One honourable exception to this was the first speaker last Monday, Mr Andy Stafford, who had coined some jokes that were new to me, such as: "I have a friend who has drawings of himself plastered all over one wall. On another wall he has pictures of himself sober."

Nevertheless, fresh jokes are in short supply. Which is why the Cambridge Union has taken to recording the speeches of guest speakers, in order to listen to them later and extract the best jokes for their own personal use. Mr Nicholas Parsons, I am told, recently addressed the union and found that some of his speech did not go as well as usual. This was because he had used the same jokes on a previous visit; they had been recorded and used extensively by subsequent undergraduate speakers.

Barry Cryer was not, I think, a university man. In his own words: "My education was severely disrupted by the outbreak of World War II. It had actually taken place 16 years previously, but I was still very upset about it." Nevertheless, he realized what was going on and had therefore shouted very loud into the mike so that the transcribing plagiarist would receive a rude shock.

I find it hard to condemn this recording of jokes myself. It has been normal procedure in show business for many years to steal other people's material and these Cambridge speakers are merely showing a precocious awareness of what it takes to get ahead.

Why, it's how I started myself. The very first time I spoke at a union, I was teamed with Clement Freud and I could not help noticing that only the first and last sentence of his speech had any bearing on the motion at all. This, he explained kindly, was because the rest of the speech was the same as that he always used on such occasions: if you're opening and closing remarks were on the motion, people were easily convinced that everything used was his. He warmly recommended me to use the same speech wherever I spoke.

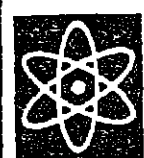
And so I did, but with mixed results. This was because almost every paragraph began "As a Liberal MP..." in my experience as a restaurateur or "My well-known Viennese grandfather..." which coming from me tended to mystify rather than amuse people. Eventually I gave up the speech altogether and resorted to some second-hand remarks that Woody Allen no longer needed and which have served me well to this day. If anyone's interested, I believe Cambridge University has a cassette of some of them.

Christine Sutton

FINDINGS

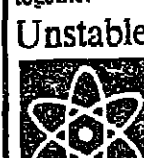
A series reporting on research
NUCLEAR PHYSICS

Seeing a new light

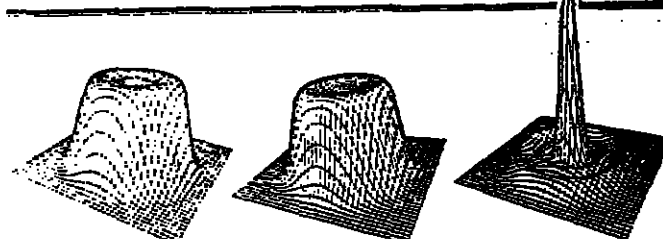


The pioneers of research in radioactivity had by the turn of the century identified three natural radiations, which they called alpha, beta and gamma rays. Alpha radiation proved to be the emission of helium nuclei (alpha particles); beta radiation is the emission of electrons; and gamma rays are a highly energetic form of light, like X-rays invisible to the eye. Now, two researchers at Oxford University have observed a new form of natural radioactivity - the emission of carbon nuclei.

H. J. Rose and G. A. Jones studied the decays of radium-223, a nucleus formed in the natural decay chain in which uranium-235 converts, by a series of steps to lead, a nucleus with a stable configuration of protons and neutrons. The researchers found evidence that radium-223 can by-pass some of the steps in this chain by emitting eight neutrons and six protons in one go, bound together in a carbon-14 nucleus. Admittedly, the radium-223 prefers to emit alpha particles (two protons plus two neutrons), with a carbon-14 emerging only once for every thousand million decays. But the observation provides useful insight into the way that protons and neutrons get together.



Unstable mates
"Like charges repel" goes the phrase we all learnt at school, so the atomic nucleus presents a paradox. Why doesn't the repulsive force between the protons blow it apart? The answer lies in the strong nuclear force which operates between the various



Nuclear charge distributions of lead 206 (left) and thallium 205 (centre) show the difference a single proton makes

Spot the dimple in the plot

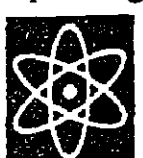
An atom is typically a millionth of a millimetre (10^{-6} mm) across - so small that large atoms are only barely visible with the most powerful electron microscope. The nucleus at the heart of the atom is smaller still: a hundred-thousandth the diameter of the atom, or 10^{-11} mm. So what chance is there of seeing a nucleus, and more difficult still, of observing the variation between the nuclei of different elements? As with atoms, the answer lies in "seeing" with electrons rather than light. Electrons are negatively charged, while nuclei contain positively charged protons. Experiments that scatter electrons from nuclei, which reflects the distribution of protons. Scientists at Saclay, the research centre near Paris, have used this technique to study the nuclei of lead-206 and thallium-205. These nuclei differ by a single proton, in the lead.

The results show clearly the effect of the extra proton. It appears as a dimple in the centre of a plot of the charge distribution for lead, which is missing on the plot for thallium.

combinations of protons and neutrons. Light nuclei, such as carbon-12 can exist in a stable form based on equal numbers of neutrons and protons. But progressively heavier nuclei require extra neutrons to counteract the increasing repulsion between the protons.

In experiments, however, researchers can make nuclei that are far from this prescription for stability. And in studying nuclei deficient in neutrons researchers have observed a new form of radioactivity - the emission of single protons. Now a team at Garching has found proton radioactivity in two more nuclei - caesium-113 (which has 20 neutrons too few) and iodine-109 (which is 18 neutrons short of stability).

Spinning twins



Neutrons and protons behave like spinning tops, with angular momentum about an internal axis. When they come together in atomic nuclei they can form pairs, spinning in opposite directions - clockwise and anticlockwise, say - so that their total spin angular momentum is zero. This pairing in turn means that the measured moment of inertia for a nucleus is between one third and one half less than what it would be for a simple rigid rotating body. But it is possible that if a nucleus is itself whirled around sufficiently rapidly, then the

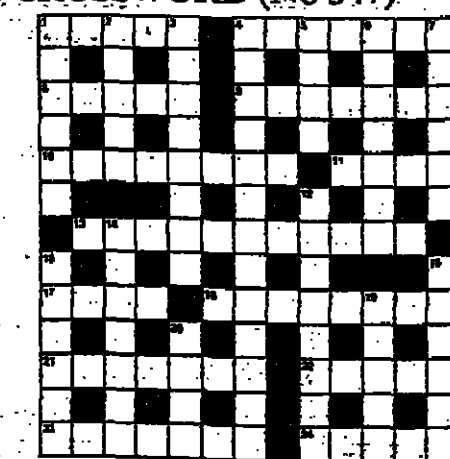
rotational forces might break up the pairing, and the moment of inertia would have the value expected for a rigid body. Scientists have recently put these ideas to the test, using silicon beams from accelerators at the Daresbury Laboratory in the United Kingdom and the Brookhaven National Laboratory in the United States. The energetic beams collide with targets of nickel to produce rapidly spinning zirconium nuclei. These spinning nuclei then slow down through a set pattern of angular momentum values, giving off gamma rays as they lose energy.

With careful measurements of the gamma rays the researchers were able ultimately to deduce how parameters, such as the moment of inertia, vary with rotational frequency of the nuclei. Their results indicate that the zirconium nucleus does begin to rotate like a rigid body once it is spinning fast enough. The simplest explanation is that the rapid rotation has indeed broken up the internal pairing.

Christine Sutton

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 347)

- ACROSS
1 Lowest deck (5)
4 Handcut (7)
8 Peeler (5)
9 Irish lacrosse (7)
10 Wall scribbling (8)
11 Remove pelt (4)
13 Private enterprise (11)
17 Coarse Eastern spirit (4)
18 Gods' cupbearer (8)
21 Angered (7)
22 Ramshackle dwelling (5)
23 Ancient Vesuvian city (7)
24 Effeminate youth (5)
DOWN
1 Call into question (6)
2 Young insect stage (5)
3 Kerosene (8)
4 Spiritual Indian leader (7,6)
5 Behaviour standard (4)



- 6 Chirping insect (7)
7 Locomotive (6)
12 Mythical stone pusher (8)
14 Rearranged word (7)
15 Fictional (4,3)
16 Mixture (6)
18 Roof edges (5)
20 Leer at (4)
Recommended dictionary is the New Collins Concise

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For more information write to Captain S.G. Palmer RN, Officer Entry Section, Dept. 364, Old Admiralty Building, Spring Gardens, London SW1A 2BE.

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Miles Kingdon
As I have
said
before

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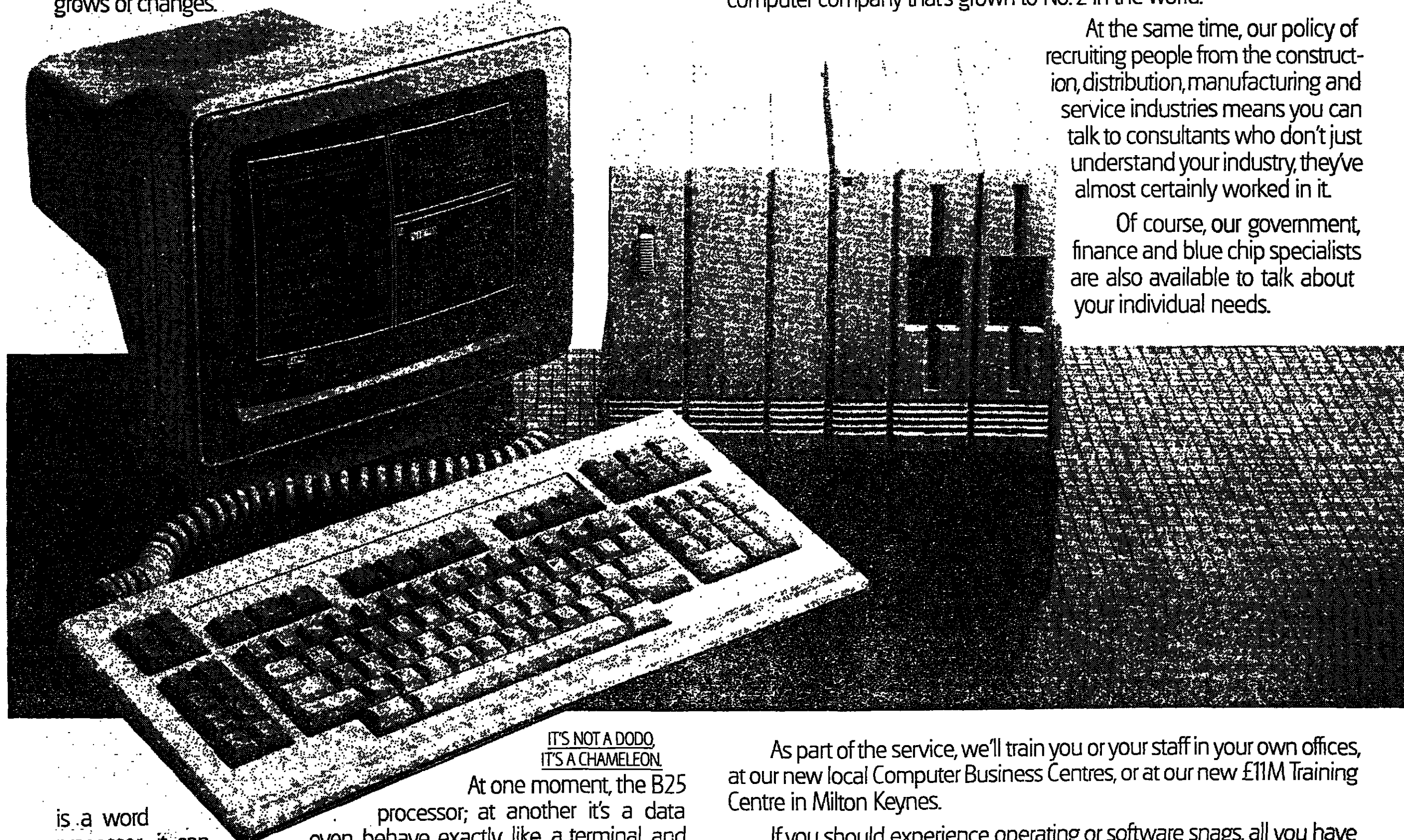
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The gifted cuckoos in the nest

Colin Hughes on the problems facing high IQ children - and their parents

Some years ago I found myself as an amateur on a panel of experts confronting parents belonging to the National Association for Gifted Children, who were seeking guidance on how to cope with their precocious progeny.

One woman challenged the various educationists to advise the dilemma raised by her daughter, who wanted to become a microbiologist. Various learning stimulants were proposed, from buying her a microscope to visiting natural history museums, each one indubitably valuable.

Somewhat sourly, admittedly, when it came to my turn to respond, I asked the genuinely anxious woman how old her child was. "Ten", she replied. "Have you asked her if she knows what a microbiologist is?" "No." "Could you tell her what microbiologist does?" "No."

But such scepticism is unfair on parents who, after all, are simply following a natural impulse: to ensure that their offspring enjoy all the opportunities perhaps they themselves missed. In its benevolent form the parental motive may generate progress and personal achievement. But can ambitions, once nurtured, be fulfilled? Should the education system be adapted to cater for the super-bright, who are arguably the most able to find their own route to success, however that might be defined?

But the notion of gifted children, determined as those with an IQ of 130 or more, has never won full acceptance in this country. Teachers and psychologists distrust ambiguous definitions of giftedness, and scepticism surrounds the methods employed to test extraordinary intelligence. Others fear that concentration on a talented elite breeds personal and social discontent: it might be, in short, a preparation for a lonely path through life.

Mrs Frieda Painter, who later this week publishes a book directed at parents who suspect that their children are specially gifted, shakes her head at both the stories of aspiring parents and of inbuilt resistance among policy-

makers and educationists.

She despairs of the "keeping up with the Joneses" attitude among the mainly middle-class parents who, out of misconceived ambition, drive ordinary youngsters into inflated ideas which may only bring the child a lifetime sense of failure.

They are, she admits, largely to blame for the poor image from which the "gifted" lobby has suffered. Frieda, who entered this minefield when her own daughter, Kathie, scored an IQ of 150 at the age of five on the Stanford-Binet intelligence test, has become convinced that as many as two-thirds of the nation's most outstanding minds are unnoticed and underused.

While Kathie Painter went through the independent school system to be accepted by Jesus College, Oxford, at the age of 16, her mother undertook a study for Hertfordshire council on attitudes to the top 2 per cent in intelligence terms in the county's schools. She discovered that not only teachers and parents failed to identify giftedness in most of the children, but that the pupils themselves had common problems which actually weakened their will to learn.

The popular model of the bullied "swot" who eventually succumbs to school phobia formed a small proportion of the group. Indeed Mrs Parker has found, over years of personally assisting parents with "problem" giftedness, that brilliance is often identifiable by disruptiveness and skill at concealing intelligence.

Extroverts become classroom clowns, using their quick wits to bait teachers. Others, bored by the slow pace of class work, win popularity by deliberately contriving inaccurate answers, deluding their teachers. Boys grow into gang leaders, eventually becoming permanently lost to the establishment view of success.

Many young bright children also have characteristics unlikely to endear them to their elders: tantrums born of frustration, scrawly handwriting, and day-dreaming. The "drop out" syndrome continues until late in life.



Frieda Painter: "I'm not interested in the wishful thinkers. I'm interested in those who, with more sensitive schooling, will develop into leading contributors to society."

and Mrs Painter tells of first class physicists becoming lavatory attendants, and philosophers on pizza production lines.

Given that local authorities spend extra funds on the 10 per cent to 20 per cent who suffer handicap disability, or other learning difficulties, why do we not also plough cash into the top 2 per cent as an indispensable national resource she asks.

The major problem, which she recognizes, is deciding who they are. Her book, *Living With a Gifted Child*, includes an intelligence test devised by Dr L. F. Lowenstein, director of the International Council of Psychologists, to help parents make the first step in assessing giftedness in their own home. It goes on to advise on the school options and career openings available.

Parents are encouraged to avoid

"cuckoo in the nest" effects, by telling the child that he or she is different. To the objection that such frankness will only bolster "big heads and know alls", Mrs Painter emphasizes that it is parents who inflate self-images. "One thing children are all good at is cutting each other down to size."

"I'm not interested in the wishful thinkers. I'm interested in those who, with more sensitive schooling, will develop into leading contributors to society, and fulfil themselves better on the way."

The most intractable problem is changing attitudes. The best route to unpopularity is by doing things quicker and better than anybody else around you", she says. "Better to run special classes, the reverse of remedial work, within the existing system."

Pupils who finish work early

and sit bored and listless, sometimes through a whole year of junior school, should be provided with additional learning materials in the class so that they have individual work to stretch them. With Kathie, Mrs Painter is now publishing such course work from her home at Knebworth, Hertfordshire, and has more than 1,000 public and private schools on her books.

As a former education officer for the National Association for Gifted Children, Mrs Painter finally accepts that guiding parents on how to cope with children whose mental ability may be nearly twice their actual age is only a first step. "In the long run it's the teachers and politicians we have to persuade."

Living With a Gifted Child is published by Souvenir Press on Thursday May 24, £8.95.

PENNY PERRICK

Men are just fine - in their place



There must be a bit of a panic on. Or why would the Working Men's College NW1 be promoting a course called "Masculinity: what does it mean to be a man in the 80s?" I rang up to find out precisely what kind of collective uncertainty among the Working Men had led to the course being set up. An informative lady said that the main theme of the six two-hourly sessions was to discover how masculinity had changed since the 1950s. For the better, I should have thought.

Were I the course tutor I should make plentiful use of visual aids ranging from 1950s man - Burton suit and Brylcreem: 1960s man - looking ridiculous in a kaftan and tank top; 1970s man - in a double-knit safari suit and dubious medallion on a chain, to finish with delicious 1980s man, looking like the lovely helpmeet he is, in a jogging suit accessorised with a baby in a sling and a washing-up cloth worn casually over a shoulder.

However, reassurance doesn't seem to be the name of the game. A new book, with the challenging title *The Redundant Male* was written not by a member of SCUM (Society for Cutting Up Men), but by two youngish gentlemen with an air of bicycle clips and leather elbow patches about them.

Their contention is that the time is nearing when men won't be needed, not even for that Just One Thing that men are, allegedly, supposed to want women for. The babies that the Just One Thing often leads to, will be made to order in a laboratory from a couple of chemicals and a few imprecations by the boffin in charge. Masculinity will be about as necessary to preserving the future of the human race as a moat and drawbridge would be in the face of nuclear war.

Nonetheless, and in spite of these worrying portents, I am sure that men will always have their uses. For one thing, you have to have about your person in order to get a decent table in a restaurant. Without an attend-

ant male, you will not only be seated in a draught, you will not be asked if you would care for a drink.

Since women are always reasonable to a fault, the world will always need men to perform vital functions known as making a fuss. If it weren't for them threatening to write to the managing director at a drop of hat, we would find ourselves seated in the smoking area although non-smoking was asked for. We would meekly eat our chop burnt to a crisp although we had ordered it medium rare, and we would accept the fact that it takes six months to get the spin-drier repaired because we know how busy people are.

Men are also absolutely necessary when it comes to making a fuss over nothing - magazines found in the wrong place, the minutest ruckle found in a bed sheet, all of which helps to keep us alert and on our toes.

The question that remains is the one that the Working Men's College is asking, viz. what does it mean to be a man in the 1980s? I suspect that at the end of the course, the students will have been persuaded that the new masculinity equals being rather more "feminine" than was once held to be decent: that is being gentle, sympathetic, aware, and so on.

This is a highly acceptable notion, although I have to say that I haven't noticed women being trampled to death in their efforts to reach the sort of man who wears purple tracksuit bottoms and bakes his own bread. I think a friend of mine got it just about right when she insisted: "What every woman needs is a man who is resolute and firm and who is prepared to compromise with you on absolutely everything."

● I do not like that staple of the gent's outfitting department, the blazer - a garment designed, in its seamy nastiness, to make the most morally upright and irreproachable man look like a bogus maroon crossed with a doggy chorus boy. The least depressing aspect of the miners' strike, therefore, is that, since Arthur Scargill has been televised wearing a blazer, everybody else may stop.

Contraception in the Irish Republic is illegal but as Richard Ford reports, the laws, widely flouted, are now to be challenged in court

Inducing the birth of change in Ireland



Well woman: founder Ann Connolly

When the Well Woman Clinic in Dublin installed a machine that sold condoms without a prescription to men and women, married or single, it knew that eventually there would probably be a visit from police investigating law-breaking.

Ostensibly the machine, selling two contraceptives for 50p, was introduced to lessen the pressure on a reception staff coping with a 40 per cent sales increase in a year. But as the clinic courted publicity, another motive seemed to have been to challenge the republic's Health Family Planning Act of 1979 and to support the campaign for reform of Mr Charles Haughey's "Irish solution to an Irish problem".

Tomorrow that challenge comes to a head when the clinic, founded in 1978 by Ann Connolly to counsel on abortion and family planning, appears in court to hear whether an application to have charges brought against them be struck out. Last week they successfully won an adjournment after arguing that the prosecution for breaking the family planning law had been wrongly brought.

The law, widely flouted in Ireland, has been in force for almost four years, and was recently reviewed by the Department of Health and Social Welfare. Under the Act, contraceptives, medical and non-medical, may be supplied by pharmacists on presentation of a doctor's prescription, but the doctor has to be satisfied the contraceptive is to be used by married couples only, for "bona fide" family planning.

The prosecution is the second under the Act - last year the chairman of the Irish Family Planning Association was fined £500 for supplying a packet of 10 condoms. With the ending of the New Ireland Forum, the supporters of the prime minister, Dr Garret FitzGerald, are looking for action on this and



Marching on: the 1971 campaigners are still on the road

other issues which have attracted voters to his vision of social progress.

Some progress has been made, those involved in family planning claim. Political opposition has decreased, fewer people now have religious qualms about contraception, open hostility and demonstration have all but ended, and there is a trend towards smaller - by Irish standards - families - of four or five children.

"Family planning", says Christine Donaghy of the Irish Family Planning Association (IFPA), "is virtually respectable now."

A pilot scheme has been launched by a health board in Dublin that provides a service to a large working class area. Family planners have been invited to participate in community exhibitions and the influence of the Roman Catholic church, which insists on natural methods of birth con-

trol, is waning. Indeed, for many lay Roman Catholics, contraception is no longer an issue. One liberal priest said: "We teach natural methods as the only permissible way. But it is not observed, and that is an indication of what is happening within the church. Many ex-priests right-wingers believe that what the Pope says goes but the man-in-the-street makes up his own mind according to his conscience."

There are still towns where it is impossible to get non-medical contraceptives: 300 of 1,000 chemists do not stock them and it is estimated that only 300 doctors are trained in family planning. Moreover, the size of mail order sales of contraceptives is indicative of the continuing difficulty of obtaining them in rural areas.

The reform being sought calls for abolition of the need for a doctor's prescription in the

purchase of contraceptives. This would make them more easily available to single people, who accounted for 58 per cent of callers at the IFPA's clinic in Dublin. Latest opinion polls show that 58 per cent want them to be available to everyone, 25 per cent to married couples only, 22 per cent to married couples only on a prescription, and 15 per cent not available at all. Two thirds of those who wish them to be available to everyone are under 34 years old, and it is in the rural areas and among the over 50 age group that hostility towards family planning persists.

Mr Barry Desmond, Minister of Health, has criticized the medical certificate provision, saying "The law is an ass in this respect".

In Ireland we are uniquely negligent in tackling this problem in a mature and honest

way". Dr Andrew Rynne, chairman of the IFPA, says: "There is nothing special about Irish society, like anywhere else in the world, we do need to protect people from contracting venereal disease or causing an unwanted pregnancy. Laws that put condoms out of reach of sexually active people are hypocritical and demonstrably absurd."

The campaign to ban abortion has been followed by a widespread debate on Irish attitudes to sex, particularly the problems of teenage pregnancy and unmarried mothers. Hardly a week passes without a reference to marital breakdown now becoming a serious problem in a country where there is no divorce and which is one of the last to retain illegitimacy of children born out of wedlock.

It has already been suggested that no one under the age of 18 should be permitted to marry, and pregnant single women are increasingly advised by the church not to rush into a hasty marriage. In Dublin, the church insists on any such person under 18 waiting six months before marrying, and those over 18, three months. The death before a shrine of the Virgin Mary of a 15-year-old girl while giving birth to her son, who also died, highlighted the distressing fact that at least one 15-year-old gives birth each week.

The shrine incident deeply shocked the country, some people contending that it had a greater effect than the whole tortuous amendment campaign. Mrs Nuala Fennell, Minister of State for Women's Affairs, said: "We must, as parents, poli-

ticians, clergy, teachers, examine our standards on this matter in the light of sentiments expressed in the last 12 months on the constitutional debate. We can only be truly pro-life if we eradicate prejudice about pregnancies occurring outside marriages. There is little indication that a caring society has emerged fully in the wake of the three-year pro-life debate we have gone through."

Undoubtedly, cracks are appearing in the conservative fabric of Irish life, with recent trends showing a decline in the credibility of church and state leadership, a new tolerance of alternative views on sex and marriage and growing numbers believing that decisions on sex should be a matter of individual choice.

However, in a small country there is a huge gap between what people tell the pollsters in private and what they are prepared to say in public. "Irish society is so small that somebody is always known by somebody else, wherever they are, and, however tolerant people may be in private, they are not prepared to say it in public", said a Roman Catholic priest. "There is still a great deal of intolerance, and a massive gulf between attitudes in urban and rural areas on social matters. The Irish are towards vaguer beliefs, with a high premium on respect and young people criticizing the change in its beliefs, much more strongly. The whole thing is beginning to look like a pack of cards about to collapse."

But despite the view of this liberal cleric, many nevertheless fear that the politicians will stumble on a road towards social reform and retreat because of a failure of nerve.

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Not so insane

From Dr Roland Littlewood, Dept of Psychological Medicine, Guy's Hospital, London

To stigmatize political opponents as insane is commonplace, particularly when their assumptions are based on rather different premises to those of their critics. Denigrating them as mad both serves to deny them rationality and mocks their adherents, for only the most credulous and simple-minded could take seriously the ravings of madmen.

It is thus a little alarming to find *The Times* following the example of the popular press after the recent events at the Libyan People's Bureau in claiming Gaddafi is insane (Friday May 4).

For absolute rulers to become secretive and suspicious is hardly surprising, but this is not mental illness: those who do

become psychotic are soon removed by their colleagues, as Suetonius suggested in the case of Caligula. If we attribute political action to psychopathology, we remove it from the commonsense everyday world of social action in which we can predict events and assume responsibility. I suspect that Dr Stuttaford is not so much offering us a serious diagnosis as (if I may be permitted another medical metaphor) expressing a sense of impotence.

Foot faults

From Helen Corkery, 32, Harrison Close, Woodlands, Reigate, Surrey. I was interested to see in Medical Briefing, Friday page, May 11 that the bent-over big toe and incipient bunion are caused by ill-fitting shoes worn in youth.

This tale is usually told by men to women, which is itself interesting since there is a clear

male preference for the female foot to be lightly shod in high-heeled shoes. Is there any real evidence for this old story?

All my life I have put my beautiful straight-toed feet into ugly shoes made specifically for the woman whose feet are fractionally broader than average, or worn footwear that was too large but could be kept on the foot, sanders retained by buckles in the summer, boots by long zips in the winter; and with what result? With the approach of middle age my big toes have collapsed and the joints are swelling.

Let us hear some other hypotheses for this condition.

From Gordon S. Seyner, MCh S, 192 Chiswick High Road, London W4. With reference to the paragraph headed Fit Feet, the supreme irony lies in the fact that the company publishing this booklet produces and markets Carnation Corn Caps,

which product I hope most earnestly Messdames Timbs and Fraser never use.

Well read

From D. W. Liddle, Central Library, Gateshead. I suppose it was inevitable that once authors began receiving payments linked to library book issues, they would assume that they had a right to tell librarians how to do their jobs i.e. lend more of their books (Friday Page May 11).

In some parts of the area I serve as a librarian there is 40 per cent unemployment, poverty, lack of opportunity for self expression and crushing ignorance of what can be done to make life better, yet less than 20 per cent of the population uses a traditional library. Libraries are paid for by all the people to serve all the people and I would be failing in my duty as a public servant and human being if I did not try to make my libraries more effective in meeting the widest possible range of people's needs.

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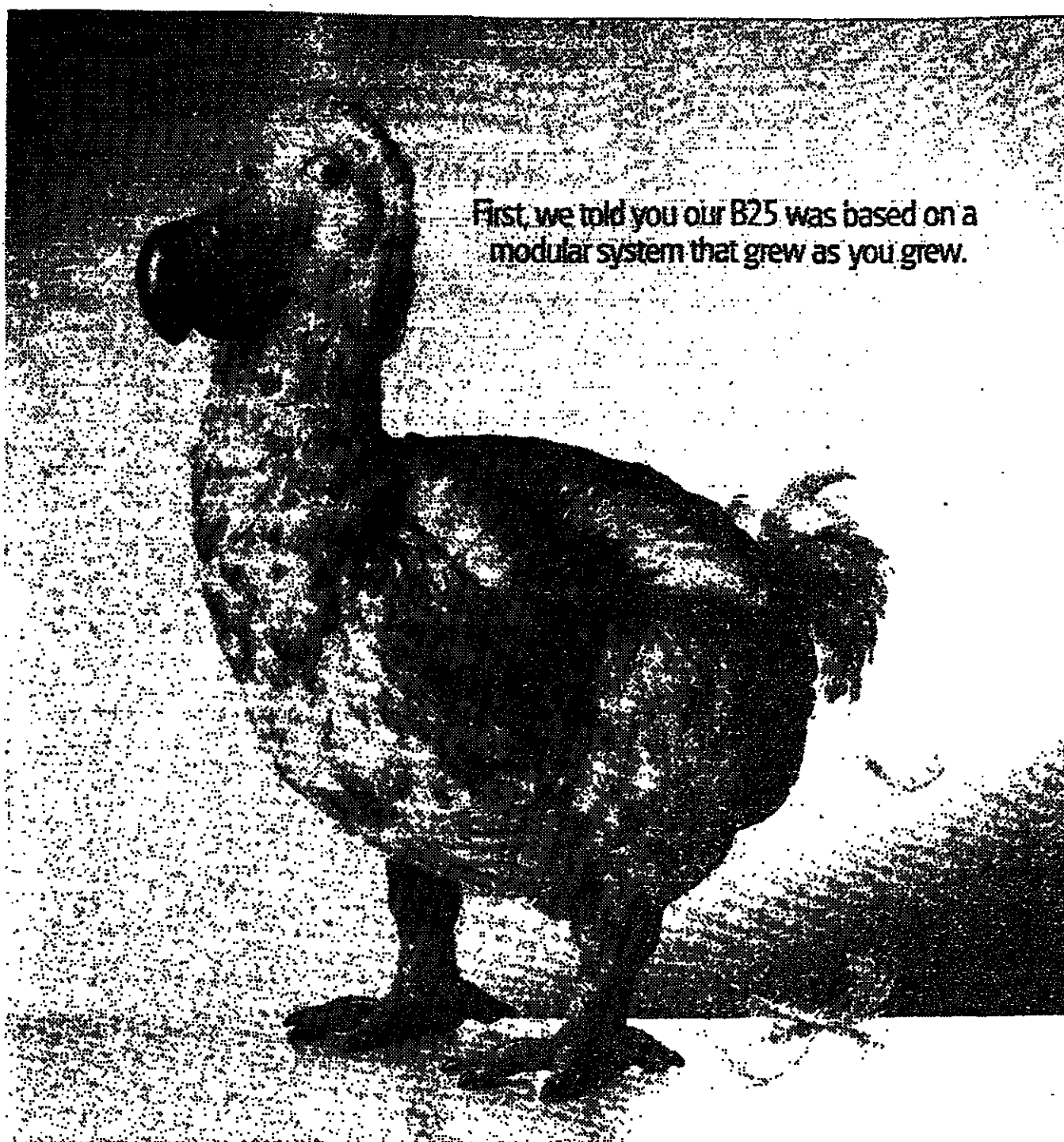
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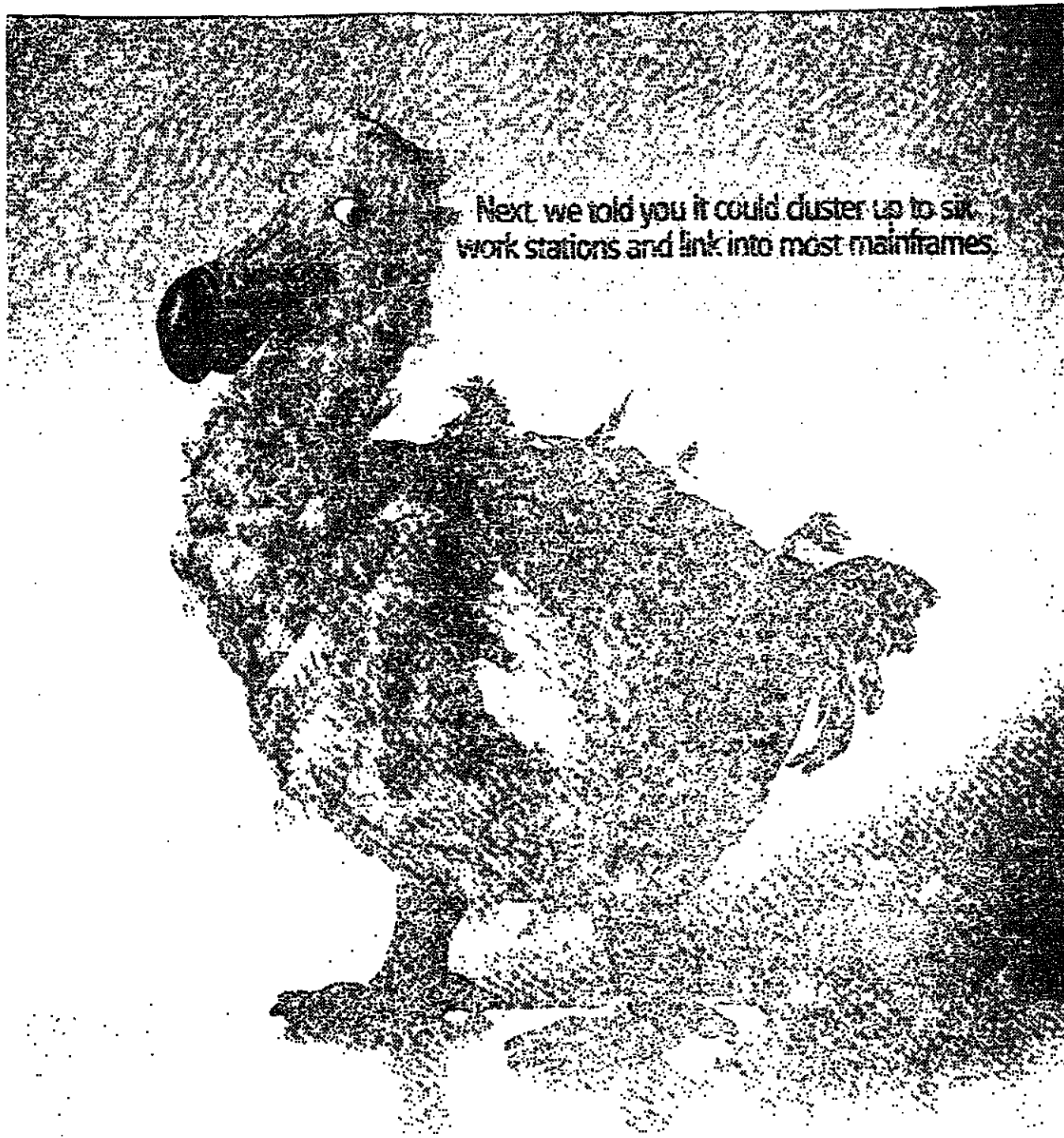


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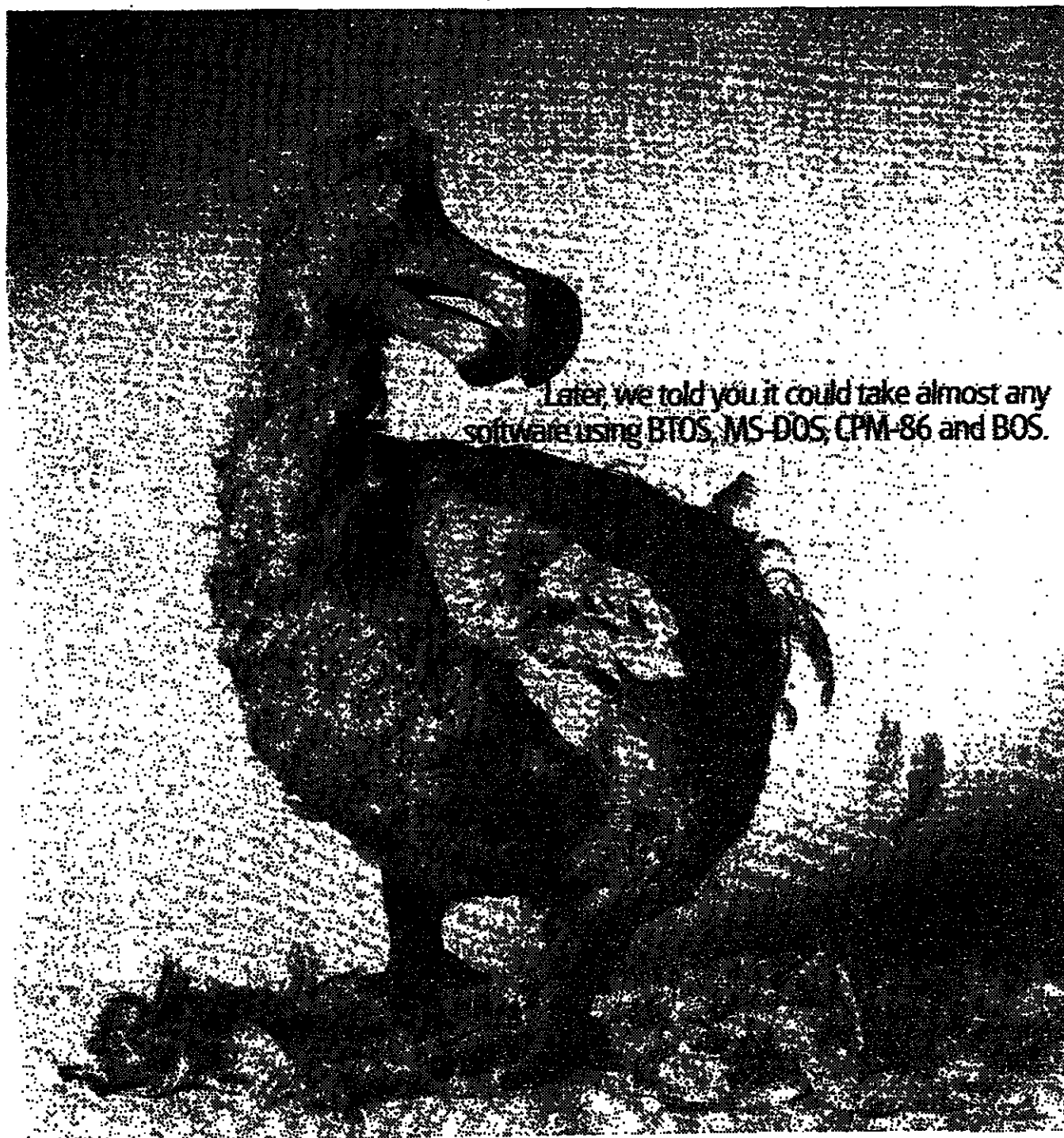


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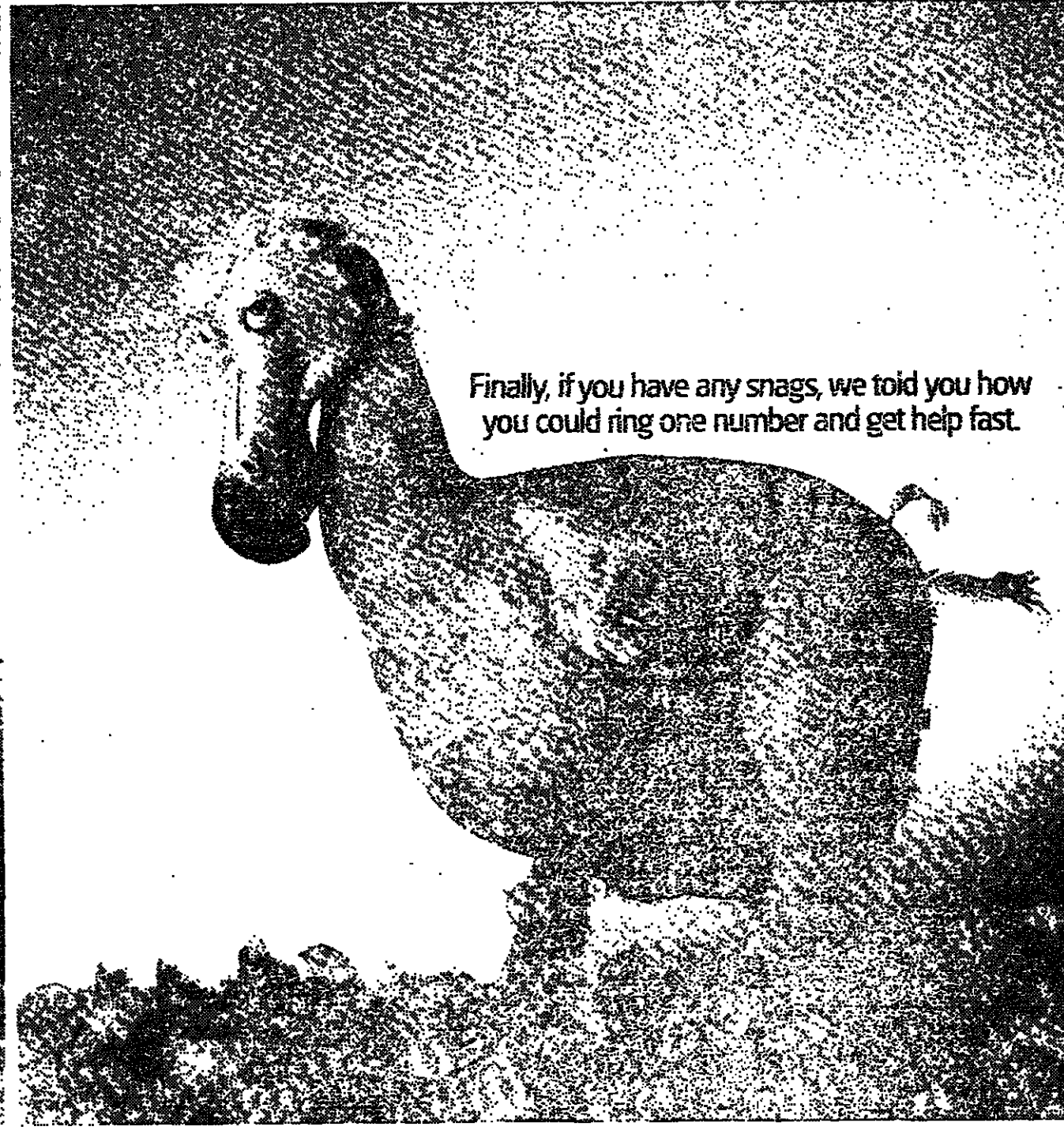


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PARIS DIARY

Frank Johnson

Having an unspoken bon jour

I often have breakfast at the Deux Magots or the Café de Flore. This practice is open to the criticism of being extremely unoriginal, since they are the two most famous cafes in Paris. I remain unashamed for several reasons.

First, I do not share the contemporary fear of being thought, when abroad, to go in for "tourist" things. As the spring proceeds, Paris is steadily filling up with thousands of American tourists devoting much time to avoiding other American tourists, when the time could be more happily spent accepting the inevitable and going to the top of the Eiffel Tower in the company of their companions, there to find Eiffel-Tower-shaped leg-warmers or whatever it is that the modern American buys up there. Secondly, the Deux Magots and the Café de Flore are supplied by the bakery which, according to my own extensive field research on the subject, makes the best croissants in the city.

The two cafes are almost next to one another on the Boulevard Saint Germain. Why are they famous? This is unclear. On its menu the Deux Magots describes itself as the "rendezvous of the intelligentsia." Although that could be a warning to customers, as in: "Beware pick-pockets." It seems that, in the years immediately after the war, a lot of existentialism went on in the area. The police appear to have clamped down on that and now a lot of homosexuality goes on in the area.

The Café de Flore is a meeting place for homosexuals, or so I was recently told by some Parisian friends after I had been having breakfast there for months and had not noticed. For at no time had I, as the English phrase has it, "been bothered" by anyone. This is either reassuring or insulting, or perhaps breakfast is not prime time. Despite its reputation for existentialism, or any other vice, the Flore remains a superbly conducted establishment.

The waiters are neither out to humiliate the foreigner, as in the Paris of British legend, nor do they constantly incite the customer to have a nice day, as in the whole of the United States outside New York. Instead, they confine themselves to the efficient discharge of their duties.

In either of the cafes you can get a breakfast for one person consisting of, say, three cups of coffee and three croissants, with butter and confiture for a price a little under an average Paris three-course lunch with half a carafe of wine. According to your scale of values, this is either excellent value or a scandal.

Embroided in a most Savary murder

One of the principles on which the Briton should observe France is that French political scandals go on for ever and are never resolved. So there has been a development in the comparatively short-running affair of the murder of the Duke of Enghien under Napoleon.

This is quite separate from the murder of the Duke of Broglie under M. Giscard d'Estaing, not to mention the Stavisky affair, although there are convergences to be found, and no doubt journalists, who think they were all in it together.

Napoleon is generally agreed to have ordered murder only once. His detractors say he sent a lot of other people needlessly to their deaths, but only one deed which could be described as murder: the shooting, at the Fort de Vincennes outside Paris, of this 31-year-old Bourbon princeling, a rival ruler of France. This was the act which drew from Talleyrand the phrase "worse than a crime, a blunder," the remark used ever since, to describe governmental sin, by people wishing to appear worldly.

Now M. Maurice Schumann, has stepped into the affair. He always steps in in the end. Not only did he step in to set up the Common Market, but he is even better remembered by Britons of a certain age as the man who under the Fourth Republic tended to be foreign minister when it was not the Maitre Georges Bidault. Like so many French politicians, he also writes. He has just published a superbly readable book called: "If I Killed the Duke of Enghien?" After much intrigue, he says it was the work of a criminally over-zealous Napoleonist named Savary. Matters are made more complicated by the fact that the over-zealous present Minister of Education, who has made President Mitterrand even more unpopular than he need be by trying to abolish private schooling, is also named M. Savary.

BARRY FANTONI



"If you really want to know, I'm a plain-clothes Rottweiler"

Time to pour oil on the Gulf

by George Walden

Asked for his view on the Iran-Iraq war, an American statesman replied: "A pity only one can lose". It is not just the threat to western oil supplies. A more worrying danger is that misunderstanding or miscalculation could lead to a superpower clash in an area where the Americans have given a quasi-nuclear guarantee.

It would be foolish to deny that Washington and Moscow have conflicting strategies in the Gulf. But their more immediate interests coincide to a remarkable extent, and they should move now, quickly and publicly, to block off the possibility of such a confrontation.

In 1980 President Carter, reacting to accusations of weakness, gave what amounted to a nuclear commitment to the Gulf. "Any attempt by an outside force to gain control of the Persian Gulf region will be regarded as an assault on the vital interests of the United States. It will be repelled by use of any means necessary, including military force."

Paradoxically, Mr Reagan has been more cautious in his commitments. The Soviet advance which Carter's warning was presumably calculated to deter has never shown much sign of materializing. The Russians have demonstrated a healthy disinclination to exploit the war, even though it is taking place only 400 miles from

Soviet frontiers. This is not for lack of Soviet strategic ambition in the area. Their historical interest in Iran remains as lively as ever, and is symbolized by the recent promotion to first deputy prime minister, with Politburo status, of Geidar Aliyev, a native of Azerbaijan, which borders on Iran.

For the moment, there is a discernible coincidence of superpower attitudes to the war. They share an interest in maintaining the principle of free navigation, there as elsewhere. Both are equally thwarted in Iran, and both are shifting the balance of their neutrality towards Iraq. Neither profits from the war, and each has a self-evident interest in preventing it widening.

The challenge to US diplomacy is to translate these shared concerns into effective action - without giving the Russians the status in the Gulf to which they aspire. We all hope that diplomatic machinery is humming smoothly and efficiently in the background. So far, the US Defence Secretary, Mr Caspar Weinberger, has responded with admirable coolness and firmness. But there is little overt sign of any imaginative moves from Washington.

Why is the onus on Washington, rather than Moscow, to initiate such moves? First,

because western democracies have a perennial duty to show themselves more responsible than communist autocracies. More practically, in the present atmosphere, we are unlikely to get much imagination from Moscow.

The danger is that the Russians will interpret any western military move into the Gulf, spearheaded by the US, as a prelude to the overthrow of Khomeini and the re-establishment of the US dominance in Iran. The combustible potential is high. Only visible, high-level contact between the superpowers, followed by the necessary soothing noises, will make it clear to the Gulf states and to the international community that both sides are determined to avoid escalation.

If the situation deteriorates, it may be that British naval forces will be asked to join the Americans and the French in keeping the Gulf open. We should show solidarity with our allies here, as we did in Lebanon. But we should also do our best to ensure that the Americans get the diplomacy right too. That means a broader and more sophisticated view of events than they showed in Lebanon. There may be times when gunboat diplomacy is defensible. But gunboats without diplomacy can rarely be justified. The author is *Conservative MP for Buckingham*.

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Alan Franks on the man most likely to lead England this summer

Cavalier with a touch of steel

A month ago, the announcement of David Gower's appointment as England captain for the approaching series against the West Indies seemed a mere formality, and even one or two selectors, those most private of people, talked openly of him as the obvious successor to Bob Willis. By last week the odds had lengthened, with Willis making an early recovery from the infection which cut short his tour of Pakistan, and Gower himself still out of action with blood poisoning.

Still, the fact remains that when cricket enthusiasts consider, as they never tire of doing, the range of possible incumbents for the great office, the assumption is always that we are on the brink of a long period of Gower rule. Even the modest 27-year-old, nursing an index finger like an underdone sausage, said at his Leicester home last week: "I am certainly working towards doing the job."

Gower's credentials are firmly based on the third test against Pakistan in Lahore earlier this year. During the preceding weeks we had already lost one test in Pakistan and a whole series to New Zealand. The added loss of Botham and Willis led to Gower standing in as captain for only the third time in his life. He scored a splendid 173 and almost snatched victory through a bold and finely-judged declaration. It may not have saved the series, but it did wonders for morale.

Many see him as standing in direct line of descent to the great Frank Woolley, of Kent, while others choose to align him with Graeme Pollock, another blond left-hander. "I know that people have tried to compare him with the pre-war amateurs," says David Frith, editor of the *Wisden Cricket Magazine*, "but I'm not sure that's right... all this comparing doesn't really get you anywhere. I suppose we middle-aged folk like to do it to show that we've seen it all and there's nothing new. But if you ask me, I'd say Gower is unique, and definitely one of the best three batsmen in the world. And he's beautiful to watch."

The younger readers of Frith's magazine agree. In a recent poll in which they were asked to nominate their favourite stroke in the game, two out of three chose a Gower shot, either his square cut or cover drive. Perhaps these two shots, so full of wrist and balance, together with the classic Botham straight drive, are the most potent images of British batting at this comparatively lean time.

The vital question posed of the England captaincy always, what will it take on the man's play? All too often the answer has been depressing. Post-war cricket history is full of captains whose performance has been diminished by the burden. Mention Botham to David Gower in this context and he



Gower: tension behind that laid-back image

reminds you that his good friend Ian had the unenviable experience of nine consecutive tests against the West Indies - whom we have not beaten for a decade.

When Gower took the reins in Pakistan it seemed, particularly in Lahore, that he had decided not to adopt Willis's collective approach to the job, but to work it all out unaided. The Cabal (as in Captain and Botham and Lamb) had been replaced by a single potentate. Or so it seemed to the spectators and many a seasoned commentator.

But here again, as so often in cricket, the appearance was misleading, and the reasons were simple, as Gower explains: "I'm a slip, remember, where you can talk to the rest without using semaphore: Bob's probably 50 yards away at the other end of the ground, starting his run. 'Bob has strong ideas of how to plan and run a game; obviously he suffers from being remote while bowling. I did a lot of conferring myself in Pakistan, particularly with Gatting and Taylor. After all, Gatt's a good captain and Taylor's been playing for 20-odd years. It's always useful to get a second opinion when

your mind's not made up. Anyway, in the end it's your decision, no matter what the advice is."

Gower concedes that whenever a player assumes the captaincy, it is logical to expect his play to suffer a little. But he points out that during his three matches in charge, his own poor performance in one was put down to the cares of office, but then so were his successes in the other two. So, through the Englishman's strangely Jesuitical approach to his cricket, the captaincy turns into a catch-all clause: if the blocks fail, you blame it on the onus, and if he succeeds, you say that he has acquired a new sense of responsibility.

"Cavalier" is second only to "laid-back" in stock words to describe Gower, and both terms imply that he doesn't really care. "No, that's wrong," he says, with the emphasis of someone who cares. "During a game, there's a lot more going on than meets the eye. It's all very well to say of someone 'He looks cool, but he's batting, but I get nervous just like everyone else. You have to remember that there is a certain conscious effort in a

conflict between batsman and bowler. The last thing you want to do when you're playing the West Indies is to encourage Malcolm Marshall in the idea you're not particularly enjoying it."

"If you wanted to be harsh, you could say that I'm not totally dedicated, and that would be fair. But only if you take both those words in their full and literal sense. There are other things in life than cricket."

Because of injury right at the start of this, his first season leading Leicestershire, we have no pointers from the county circuit on Gower's style. David Frith reckons that if you really want parallels, you could do worse than to think of Peter May. "David is like May, and Brearley for that matter, in that all three were men to be establishment figures, but were really not that at all, but free-thinkers. Just like May, there's real steel there, although he was less relaxed, more concerned about dignity than David is."

When Gower himself is asked which of his own captains' qualities he would most like to combine, he thinks long and hard, and replies: "I'd take Brearley's ability to read a game and solve problems, I'd take Ray Illingworth's deep knowledge of the game, and I'd be glad to have Bob Willis's sense of humour. I know Ian's captaincy was heavily knocked, but I wouldn't mind some of his flair and intuition."

It would be an admirable hybrid. As a player, he already has enormous credit in the bank at international level - certainly more than several recent captains, including Mike Denness, Tony Lewis and Brearley himself. In his 59 appearances for England he has played 102 innings, scored 4,260 runs at an average of 45.81, amassed nine centuries (including a score of 200 against India in 1979), 21 half-centuries and taken 39 catches. And let us not forget his bowling, since everyone else does: a grand analysis of one wicket for two runs, taken against India when a match was fizzling to a draw and the surprise leavened the boredom. None the less, the wicket was that of Kapil Dev, the fine Indian all-rounder.

The notion of a Gower captaincy has a deliciously dangerous edge to it. That Lahore match, when he the game saved and the Pakistanis shutting up shop, what does he do but bring on Chris Smith a couple of overs from the end, begging the late order batsmen to have a final go: three wickets in hand, but fewer than 30 runs for victory. "In my mind," he recalls, "there was an extremely low hope of doing anything extraordinary at that stage, although I would not be minded." A crucial juxtaposition in the Gower philosophy, that: "an extremely low hope... although I wouldn't have minded."

be even more important in November than it has proved to be for Mondale in the primaries.

Thus the "electability" issue cuts both ways. Does the party opt for a favourite son in the hope that he may close what has been termed "the passion gap" once the election campaign begins in earnest? Or do Democrats go for an "outsider" whose supposed support among middle Americans is unproven and who could, it is feared, turn out to be as great an electoral disaster as McGovern was 12 years ago?

Neither candidate can derive much comfort from opinion polls, all of which show Reagan an easy winner if the election were to be held now. And although Hart has consistently fared better against Reagan than Mondale, his lead over the former vice-president has been slipping in recent weeks.

All of this means that this year's convention could be the most volatile in years, unless the three candidates agree on a unity pact before then. Many Democrats fear that the only real victor in San Francisco will be Ronald Reagan. While Mondale, Hart and Jackson wheel and deal and campaign against each other, Reagan just has to go on "acting presidential" until his own coronation takes place at the Republican convention in Dallas in August.

Then, with a unified party behind him, he will confront a challenge from a candidate who is the far-from-unanimous choice of Democratic voters. It is no wonder that Reagan campaign officials smugly assert that "electability" is only a Democratic problem.

Nicholas Ashford

Ferdinand Mount

Why comparability is odious

"Megaw" the very word is like a bell to toll us back to the dear, dead days of the Civil Service strike. The name suggests rooks cawing in thick fog, or a scene from *Black House*. Mention of the word in Whitehall corridors these days provokes uneasy mutterings and sidelong glances, as if there were some dark secret which must soon come to light.

In plain terms, the story so far is that, after the unpleasant Civil Service pay dispute in 1981, the Government set up an inquiry under Sir John Megaw, a High Court judge. In future, the system was not merely to compare the pay of civil servants with that of people doing roughly similar jobs outside (the system which had been in force formally since the Priestley Report of 1955, and effectively since the year dot); the Megaw committee was supposed to take account of other factors - such as the job security enjoyed by civil servants and the ease or difficulty of recruiting and retaining staff. In other words, the system was to become more like that pertaining to the outside world.

Alas, Sir John did not come up with the goods. Or at least he purported to come up with the goods, but, on closer examination, the Megaw system looked remarkably like the Priestley system. It was much like asking a child to draw anything he likes out of his imagination, and finding that he keeps on drawing a square house with a red roof and a green front door.

What appeared to be a neat way out of a public sector pay dispute, in fact stored trouble and expense for the future. The same thing happened with the teachers. It is happening with the nurses. Once public employees have inhabited the intoxicating fumes of comparability, they will never willingly return to the drab slog of free collective bargaining. And unless the government pays up every farthing recommended by the official review body, they have an official grievance.

The Government waited until the end of 1982 before saying anything at all about Megaw. Then it said that it accepted the broad approach, but that the new system would not be ready to be operated in 1983. When 1984 came round, the Government said it still was not quite ready, but, to fill in, it would ask the Office of Manpower Economics to do a study comparing civil servants' pay with outside rates. Mr Nigel Lawson is, in short, playing *Scheherazade*, spinning any kind of yarn to postpone the dreadful day when the Civil Service unions cut off talks and walk out.

The trouble is that these little studies tend to be just as embarrassing as a full-blown Megaw system would be. According to the National Union of Teachers, a similar type of study done on their profession

shows that, in 1974, salaries were roughly the same as accountants', electrical engineers' and police inspectors'. Now they are up to 42 per cent lower. What is so special about 1974, you may ask? That was the year in which the Houghton Committee awarded the teachers a whopping pay rise. Presumably the accountants, electrical engineers and police inspectors were just as furious then that teachers should have drawn level with them. But now the teachers have a cause, and the NUT is encouraging them to walk out.

Yet think back only four years and recall the gigantic pay rise awarded to the teachers by the notorious Clegg Commission on Comparability - 24 per cent, no less. Teachers' earnings seem to fluctuate as violently as those of a riverboat gambler, and despite all these commissions, they are far from high, even today.

This is surprising, because all the comparisons operate strictly in one direction - upwards. Studies show that government flange-inspectors are now earning £25 a week more than non-government flange inspectors, their union does not say: "Oh, sorry about that. You'd better knock the 25 quid off our civil service members". The Royal Institute of Chemistry has in fact recently reported that the majority of university chemists are earning up to £3,000 a year more than chemists in industry.

What happens, of course is that the government of the day tries to claw back the damage done by these commissions; it overrides their awards; it pleads a national emergency; it deducts higher pension contributions or freezes the rent allowances or the London weighting. One way or another, after 10 years or so, most groups of workers find themselves more or less where they started in the pecking order.

A government which discards a comparability system is accused of "muddling through." But it is usually the old system's false pretensions to scientific precision which stirred up the muddle in the first place. The comparisons are mostly misleading and always imprecise. You might as well set up a comparability commission for vegetables: is it right that avocados should now be 7 per cent dearer than artichokes, when in 1977 they were 2½ per cent cheaper? The market for public servants is highly imperfect; when you set out to pay to retain sufficient maths teachers is largely a matter of guesswork; but then so is trying to decide what you morally ought to pay a maths teacher. The employer has to have a rough idea of the going rate, but after that, it is back to the immemorial haggle of the bazaar - which produces results that are usually more predictable and often fairer than any fancy system. Would the teachers be worse off today if Burnham had never scaled? I doubt it.

Ray Honeyford

Do-gooders doing a disservice

The teacher and the social worker often clash. Why? Because they espouse conflicting theories of the nature of man. The teacher is optimistic; the social worker expects the worst. Typically, the teacher makes demands. He expects the best in work and behaviour; sets standards to which the child is expected to progress; is sceptical of excuses. He respects the child's right to be wrong. If he did not, he would feel the child had been reduced to the level of moral automation. He encourages aspiration, nurtures proper ambition, rewards effort. Above all he seeks to transmit the necessity to pursue excellence.

The social worker is a professional provider of excuses. He dispenses alibis to the lazy, the loutish and the confused. He consistently mistakes sentimentality for sentiment; indulgence for concern. Whereas the teacher insists the child is to be seen as an individual with mind and will, the social worker perceives only victim circumstances. The teacher invests the child with personal attributes such as character, personality, imagination; and daily watches him shape and mould the world to his own, individual blue-print. The social worker, product of the generalizations of sociology, employs abstractions to explain behaviour: domestic violence, racism, alienation are all grist to the social worker's determinist mill.

The agent of state welfare invariably condemns the school for being "middle class"; for reflecting the values of the articulate, the responsible, the ambitious. The artisan's son is thereby alienated. The school must replace high culture with the curriculum of the proletariat - bingo, perhaps, the football pools and earnest study of the tabloids.

Lenin's words, "Morality must be subordinate to the class struggle", become a guiding principle. There must be stories of broken marriages, unmarried mothers, hire purchase debts and eviction of big brother in prison and sister eloped with a black man. And all must be transmitted in appropriate language - the argot of the gutter. There must be "understanding" for things; discipline must be eschewed as a class-ridden irrelevance.

The teacher knows better. He knows from direct experience that no one despises such destructive claptrap more than the aspiring from a candidate who is the far-from-unanimous choice of Democratic voters. It is no wonder that Reagan campaign officials smugly assert that "electability" is only a Democratic problem.

It is true of course, that in modern times the middle classes have had a clearer grasp of this than the industrial working class. But the answer is not, as so many social workers appear to think, to despise the possessors of wisdom. Better, surely, to spread the word around. The working classes do not need either patronage or alibis. They need, and deserve, constructive criticism for taking far too long to support their children in achieving the schools' humane goals. They also need guidance to change their ways.

That is one way that social workers could really help. A kick in the parental pants would do far more good for Johnny than condemning the school for expecting the best of him. I have seen far too many able working-class children fail, because of their irresponsible parents' failure to cooperate with the school. Such parents have frequently been indulged, if not positively encouraged, by the family's social workers who by shifting the burden of guilt from its real location, provides the feckless and the supine with the sickening contemporary mythology of self-justification.

The tragedy of post-war schooling, of course, is the rise of the teacher with the values, outlook and vocabulary of the social worker. He, the left-wing radical teacher, the widest dose being the covert enemy of the child he professes to care for, the enemy of self-help for the working-class child. Such a teacher not only betrays children, he betrays his own profession, which makes at least some pretence to being a qualified body of people. A very high proportion of so-called social workers are not qualified at all, and many who are appear to be incompetent. According to recent research by the "professor of social work" at East Anglia University, Martin Davies, a significant proportion of social work students passed as competent by their teachers are, in reality, failed candidates.

The malign influence of the ideology of social work on education was well stated many years ago by that great and perceptive commentator, Jacques Barzun, when he said: "The notion of teaching a child has in the United States displaced that of teaching him. Anyone who tries to preserve the distinction is obviously unhelpful, and is, at once known for a declared enemy of youth. The truth is that even apart from its hostility to intellect, systematic codding is as dangerous as it is impertinent." To "United States" it is now necessary to add "Great Britain".

The author is a comprehensive school headmaster. The article first appeared in the Salisbury Review.



TEACHERS' TANTRUMS

The teachers have decided on strike action not only because they see themselves as underpaid, but absolutely and in comparison with other professions but because they feel themselves on that account to be socially undervalued. Injured professional self-esteem has provided the fuel of indignation which has moved the teachers to conduct which, on any normal criterion for professionalism, is unprofessional - even when allowance is made for the maintenance of classes for children being immediately prepared for examination.

Teaching has never attracted entrants by high rates of pay. It has, however, other material compensations, notably job security and long holidays. It also has to be presumed that job satisfaction is a principal motive for choosing teaching in preference to other work. But, of course, none of these considerations would justify pay that was too low to provide conscientious teachers with a fair living-standard or that failed to attract the right entrants to the profession. The question now is how far the offer refused by the teachers can be regarded as meeting these criteria in all the existing circumstances.

Some teachers are certainly not well remunerated for the effort they put into their work, and for what they do for their pupils in out-of-class activities and long hours of marking after school. For them it can fairly be claimed that long holidays are needed to compensate for long hours and a stressful term. Some (depending on the subject and personal qualifications) are probably paid less than they could get for other work.

On the other hand, other teachers do not have long hours of marking, and may give little time or energy to their pupils beyond their formal duty. Yet their pay is the same as that of harder-working colleagues in the same grade and level, and it is certainly not clear that they could command more money for other work. For all these reasons alone, attempts to compare teachers' pay with that of other professions are folly. There is no such thing as a "just wage" for teachers, any more than there is for any other collectivity, and comparability is a dangerous

illusion. The "right" differentials between the pay of (say) a teacher, miner, doctor and physiotherapist could only be imposed by political will and the notion has arbitrary connotations inconsistent with a free society.

Teachers' pay, therefore, must be a matter for commonsense in any particular circumstances. If we could write on a blank sheet, commonsense might suggest that the general level of pay for good teachers (the qualifying adjective is all-important) ought to be higher than it is, not least to encourage more entrants of the right calibre to teaching. But the sheet is not blank, and the calculations have to be done from existing facts. For one thing, the unionization of teachers itself creates an assumption of equality of pay for given grades and levels irrespective of individual merit. It means in practice that pay increases are largely concentrated on a relationship to the going rate of inflation and on the illusion of comparability with other professions rather than on rewards for individual performance.

In the present case, the employers started with an offer of 3 per cent and did not formally raise it to 4.5 per cent until the end of April. The teachers' rhetoric, therefore, has accused the employers of rigidity and used this to justify the strike. Yet the employers appear to have told the teachers' representatives informally at a very early stage that 4.5 per cent would be acceptable, and that 3 per cent remained the formal figure only because the teachers were demanding so much more (12½ per cent, apparently to secure 7½ per cent) that the tendency of arbitrators to split the difference would produce a figure well above the employers' ability to pay.

Even the general increase of 4.5 per cent would strain the ability of employers to pay within budgets that have now already been agreed. They have therefore refused to go to arbitration because they feel that the convention of splitting the difference would lead to a figure for which money could not be found without reducing the number of teachers. This episode, therefore, ought to call into question the basic

negotiating conventions. It would perhaps be better if (as in some no-strike agreements in new industries) arbitrators could only come down for one figure or the other instead of splitting the difference. This would tend to encourage each side to produce reasonable figures, each in the hope that its own figure would be accepted.

We now have a strike which punishes pupils in order to put pressure on employers who suffer nothing. Moreover, the maintenance of classes for children with imminent examinations does not help those who lose preparations for future examinations. Of course, there is always a danger that professionalism may be exploited by low pay, but when it is, the best answer is not to strike but for those qualified to do so to go elsewhere. There is no better inducement for an employer to pay more for recruits and quality, as the Government's approach to army and police pay has shown. But in the present case, there is no exploitation.

The figure of 4.5 per cent, which has been accepted by the Scottish teachers and virtually keeps up with the current rate of inflation, ought to be acceptable, not least because teachers' pay has fully kept up with inflation since 1979. Once the present dispute is settled, the way should be clear for a reconsideration of the method of setting teachers' pay and revising pay structure. A system based much more firmly on individual effort and merit, and which takes into account an individual's role in his own particular school's circumstances, is needed. (The qualities required differ with circumstances and those needed for teaching an academic sixth form are not the same as those needed for the difficult classes of an inner city comprehensive.)

Sir Keith Joseph, the Secretary of State for Education, is understandably wary, and rightly insists that performance-related money must be determined only by fully professional assessment. That is not easy to achieve, but it should be the object. A good teacher deserves a differential in his or her favour, and it should not be impossible, when this destructive strike is over, to contrive a means of giving it.

TRUE LAUREATE

No doubt all true poets are "much possessed by death", as Eliot said of Webster. John Betjeman certainly was - by his banal and macabre as well as by his eschatological implications. It is not only their picturesqueness which brings churchyards so often into his verse - from Hardy's Mellstock (which he restocked with the brightest and best of his day) to Highgate, (which he postulated as the last resting-place of that heir of the ages, Lupin Pooter). Speculations about the eventual circumstances and nature of that final event which occurred on Saturday (happily at home in his sleep, and not among "inflexible nurses" in a pale green Cottage Hospital) were the motive for several of his best poems.

Some readers who supposed that because the syntax was transparent the poem was also, and some critics, jealous of his popularity, were apt to dismiss him as merely a whimsical celebrator of a cosy past. But if he had been no more than that, he would never have been as popular as he became. It is his popularity which appears the

most striking thing about him, in a period when poets have not on the whole had great success in persuading readers that their work is urgent, relevant or fun. Betjeman was a born comic-mimic, an original who judiciously husbanded and developed his originality, and delighted in putting it across to new audiences, whether with the backing of a jazz band or, on television, of a heavy-doored electric train, to the despair of poets who wooed the masses more aggressively and less successfully.

But behind the charm lay a melancholy far more incisive than mere literary gloom, and a realistic assessment of the practical prospects of human nature becoming very much kinder or more sensible. For a man who took a deprecatory satisfaction in dwelling on his own ineffectiveness, he did more than most to promote good sense, especially in hastening the overthrow of that facile contempt for the recent past and for the achievements of the bourgeoisie, which after the war was so rapidly laying waste village, city and

suburb with glass and chrome. If his position led him sometimes into an unduly tart disparagement of garden city utopias, they will have to wait for justice till they can breed a Betjeman of their own.

Few could be so rightly endowed for the role of Poet Laureate in the present age, even though his explicitly laureate verse was undeniably weak. He was a living repudiation of the idea that poetry must necessarily be arcane or saturnine, and though he had no more success than any other poet since the Divine Right of Kings fell into disavowal in celebrating royal weddings and nuptials without bathos, he did celebrate, with the most lively specificity, a Britain that his readers could recognise and love, while applying a compassionate lash to some of its private and public faults. If the laureateship is to be something more than a gong for the eminent elderly bard, as it should be, and something like a role of National Poet, his approach is the one that a successor is most likely to find rewarding.

A WARNING FOR MARCOS

President Marcos looks as though he will emerge from last Monday's general election in the Philippines shaken but unbowed. Final results for the election to the country's National Assembly will not be known for several days. But it is already evident that despite some blatant ballot rigging by Marcos supporters, opposition parties have done better than anyone - including the opposition itself - expected. The large turnout of anti-Marcos voters has belied the expectations not only of Marcos himself, but also of the more radical opposition groups that called for an election boycott.

The size of the anti-Marcos vote attests to the widespread disillusionment and frustration now felt in the Philippines. There is a growing feeling that the 66-year-old president, who still wields immense power, is losing his touch; and just at a time when the parlous state of the economy calls for clear-headed guidance within the framework of a strong political consensus. Popular resentment is directed not so much at Marcos himself as at the power and influence of his friends and family, especially his wife Imelda.

There have been rumblings of unrest ever since Marcos ended

nine years of martial law in 1981; but the event which really undermined popular confidence in him was the assassination last August of the Opposition leader Benigno Aquino at Manila airport. Nothing that the Marcos government has done since then has dispelled the widespread belief that it was implicated in Aquino's murder. And many Filipinos are convinced that even if President Marcos himself did not have a hand in the murder, it could never have taken place had he not been politically and physicallyailing.

But President Marcos's staying power is not to be underestimated. Provided his health does not deteriorate, there is no reason to suppose that after 19 years as President he cannot last a few more. Certainly this week's general election should not be taken as a sign that his days are numbered. The National Assembly is a weak, even powerless body, which is one reason why so many opposition leaders, including Benigno Aquino's brother Agapito, have chosen to boycott it. Even if the opposition were to gain a majority in the Assembly, which at this stage seems very unlikely, Marcos would still have the power to override it and to rule

by presidential decree. Indeed, he can turn this week's election results to his advantage by arguing that democracy in the Philippines is flourishing, rather than moribund as his sterner critics claim.

There is however a lesson to be learned from the election, and it would be a pity if President Marcos ignored it: that the proper way to ensure political stability in the Philippines, both now and in the future, is to restore a fully functioning democracy, and to give opposition leaders a constructive role to play in the political life of the country. By taking these steps President Marcos could check the growing political polarization which is now pushing more radical opposition groups into cooperation with the Communist-New People's Army. Unlike other Communist movements in South-East Asia, the New People's Army is growing rather than dwindling in strength; and until now Marcos's principal method of dealing with it has been the use of military force which can seldom answer - indeed has sometimes exacerbated - the grievances from which the Communists gain sustenance.

Bankers' support for South Africa

From the Dean of King's College London

Sir, For those concerned to see real, as opposed to superficial, changes in South Africa, these are depressing days indeed. One of the most gloomy features of the present time is the comfort that British banks and companies are giving to apartheid.

At the AGM of Standard Chartered on May 10, the chairman told shareholders that the bank had participated in a big loan direct to the South African government for general purposes. Until recently British banks have claimed to be lending only to specific commercial projects. Now money is being lent that can be used, amongst other things, for paying the illegal and immoral army of occupation in Namibia.

At the AGM of Shell Transport and Trading on May 17 (report, May 18), the chairman persistently refused to deny that one of its subsidiaries was selling petrol and oil to the South African forces.

In the next two weeks we will be hearing a great deal about the Normandy landings. At that time, at great cost, this country proved that our society was built on something more than business - it had a moral foundation. Have we as a country so deteriorated in 40 years that we no longer believe in anything but maintaining the rate of dividends?

The South African government have now conceded that two million black people have been relocated in the last 20 years. They admitted an element of force in some removals. Others claim that 3,500,000 black people have been forcibly resettled in that period.

But whether two million or 3,500,000, how much longer are we prepared to go on financing such massive human suffering? And how long are your columnists and leader writers going to put an acceptable face on it?

Yours sincerely,
RICHARD HARRIES (Chairman,
End Loans to Southern Africa),
King's College London,
Strand, WC2
May 18.

Levels of education

From Mr A. H. Cooper

Sir, Having now received the published proposals by the Secretary of State for Education and Science for AS levels and in respect of which there has been comment in the media and support in the correspondence columns of *The Times*, may I voice concern at the hope expressed in para. 31 "that the arrangements for admission to higher education could be adapted so as to give preference to students who have studied a wider range of subjects" and particularly those with combinations of A and AS levels.

If this hope should be realized then it would be the death knell of non-examined general studies which have been developing in many sixth forms and which have enabled schools to generate their own particular interests and pupils to generate an enthusiasm for learning untrammelled by paper qualifications.

Examinations are necessary but they pose a threat to flexibility in education and the exercise of initiative and should not be needlessly imposed. Breadth can be achieved and recognized without formal attestation.

Yours faithfully,
A. H. COOPER, Headmaster,
The King's School,
Macclesfield,
Cheshire,
May 9.

Roots of damage

From Professor J. B. Burland

Sir, The problem of damage due to the action of the roots of trees does not require legislation, as urged by Brian Lingard (April 27). What is needed is an informed application of the technical advice that is already available by all parties - property owners, surveyors, architects, civil engineers, building societies and insurers.

A serious circle has developed with respect to building damage caused by subsidence and heave. On the one side the home owner fears that, even for minor cracking, his property will be blighted, while on the other side the professional fears that unless he recommends major remedial measures he is liable to be sued for professional negligence.

The situation has fed on itself, having been triggered initially by the introduction in 1971 of subsidence cover by the insurance companies without any qualification on the severity of the damage. This was closely followed by the 1976 drought and by certain rulings by the Court of Appeal in relation to the duty of care of local authorities.

Very few buildings exist without some forms of cracking. However, the term "subsidence damage" has become so emotive that it has

Educating trainees for industry

From the Chairman of Suffolk County Council

Sir, Sir Kenneth Corfield's letter (May 11) was of particular interest to us and no doubt to other education authorities, who are struggling against considerable financial restraints to update our educational system and curriculum in order to provide just the sort of recruits his industry is demanding.

Sadly the Government, although strongly supporting information technology, is only prepared to encourage "training", which it controls through the MSC (Manpower Services Commission), rather than "education" for which local education authorities are responsible under the "benign" supervision of the DES.

The flagrant extravagance of a very few authorities has undermined government confidence in LEAs (local education authorities), which are in general the most responsible of bodies and closely in touch with the needs of their localities.

Nevertheless, the artificial separation of training and education can only restrict the objectives which Sir Kenneth and many others wish to see, since education and training must go hand in hand if we are to see a prosperous Britain in the future.

In our authority we require considerable investment now in hardware and other teaching aids and in training of teachers in their use. If we provide what is necessary we suffer severe financial penalties by the very Government whose objectives are similar to our own. Reform of the system is vital.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN SHEEPSHANKS,
Chairman, Suffolk County Council,
County Hall,
Ipswich, Suffolk,
May 15.

From the Vice-Chancellor of the Open University

Sir, Sir Kenneth Corfield makes several major points in his letter of May 11. I refer to two of them: firstly, that we are experiencing a shortage of engineers in particular fields; and secondly, that the necessary integration of education and training requires a new commission to "look across... the whole fabric of secondary and tertiary education and training."

During my two years on the Engineering Council under Sir Kenneth's chairmanship I argued that the cuts in university funding of 1981 would lead to fewer engineers graduating, in spite of the University Grants Committee's stated intention of protecting engineering. We are indeed now beginning to experience the effects of those cuts, as the council has recently pointed out.

Straw burning

From Mr R. J. Ellis

Sir, From the point of view of being a glider pilot, I am in favour of straw and stubble burning, as these fires are an excellent source of energy for our aeroplanes.

However, if Mr Gourlay (May 15) wishes to cause the minimum inconvenience to the general public, perhaps farmers should stop burning on high atmospheric pressure days. The "temperature inversion" associated with this type of weather traps the smoke and spreads it along the ground, causing maximum nuisance value to all concerned.

A quick call to the weatherman might help the farmers, and our gliders.

Yours sincerely,
R. J. ELLIS,
32 Lyndale Road,
Redhill,
Surrey.

Choice for unions

From Mr J. W. West

Sir, In your leading article, "Corporatist epitaph" (May 7), you pointed out that Labour ministers and trade union leaders had reduced the rights of individual trade unionists and deprived them of legal protection from exclusion or expulsion from a union.

In *The Times* of May 12, Wednesday Wyatt dwelt on related evils of the closed shop.

The situation would be ameliorated, though by no means wholly cured, if the law were to enact that where there is a closed shop the union concerned must grant membership to any person requiring it in order to obtain or retain employ-

ment, and that any such person willing to pay the appropriate subscription on demand would be deemed to be a member of the union.

Unions would then have a clear choice. Either they could forgo the closed shop and be free to pick and choose their members, or they could have a closed shop and surrender their right to pick and choose their members.

What is surely utterly wrong is that the unions should be able to say that a person must belong to the union and at the same time to have the right to deny that person membership if, he has it, to withdraw it from him. That is to give the unions the best of both worlds with a vengeance.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN W. WEST,
La Pucelle,
La Ville Danet,
Paimpont,
35380 Pielan-le-Grand,
France,
May 14.

Nature imperilled on Majorca

From Dr Elspeth Beckett

Sir, Mr Richard Wigg's account ("Letter from Majorca", May 14) of efforts to save Es Trenc in Majorca from would-be developers raises fundamental questions about the relative value of undeveloped versus developed land in financial and recreational terms.

Majorca remains relatively undeveloped in that the visitor in spring, who ventures half a mile inland from the hotel development on the coast, will find a wealth of wild plants now rarely seen in Britain. Fields dominated by the brilliant yellow of the wild chrysanthemum, the blue grape hyacinths, or the shocking-pink wild gladioli may be inefficient in the economic terms of the farming industry, but are a major attraction to tourists accustomed in their own lands to monoculture crops.

In Majorca orchids are still common (as they were in Britain in the 1930s). A walk along almost any roadside will be rewarded by a large number of species in a countryside mercifully free from the common stinging nettle, and even amidst the concrete half-development surrounding Palma an astonishing wealth of wild plants remains: the diligent plant hunter in Can Pastilla, an urban "tourists' paradise", will find a longer list of species than from our carefully preserved Gower coast.

Majorca is disappearing fast. The Albufera, a paradise of reeds, wild birds and orchids, is now threatened by new development on the adjacent coast, itself notable for species such as *Cistus incanus*, *Halimolobos halimifolium* and the yellow maritime centaury. A superb area of woodland and maritime heath to the east of Can Picafort is now destroyed by fire and the developers are following fast.

Not all tourists go to Majorca to lie in the sun. The loss to the people of Majorca when they have finished developing their country will be our loss, too. Some of us may move on to some remote Greek island. But how much better if we Europeans, Majorquians and their tourists, could save Majorca before it is too late.

In Britain the Nature Conservancy is under-financed. Perhaps there is a case for more international funding to protect areas enjoyed by tourists of many nations.

Yours faithfully,
ELSPETH BECKETT,
78 St Clements,
Oxford,
May 14.

Teachers' pay claim

From Mr R. J. Brind

Sir, Your report, "Heads fear lasting action" (May 12), may have given the impression that head teachers were alone in their fears of the devastating results of the present situation.

My association, which is pledged never to take strike action, has consistently warned that industrial action generates an atmosphere which is a disincentive for study. Already, here in South Glamorgan, we have had reports of children downing tools, of children who are taking O levels losing all interest in attending school and of teachers refusing to set homework even for those whose future will be determined by examinations next month.

There is no doubt in my mind that teachers have been badly weakened. Many are being called on to act in a way that is completely against their professional judgment.

In my school, we constantly encourage children to bring their problems to teachers for arbitration. We believe this is the way to a moral, and just, society. The general public should demand that both the Government and local authorities equally should do all within their power to resolve this dispute amicably to moral and just principles.

Yours faithfully,
R. J. BRIND, Secretary,
South Glamorgan Federation,
Professional Association of Teachers,
6 Lynch Blasse Close,
Landaff,
Cardiff, South Glamorgan,
May 14.

Choice for unions

From Mr J. W. West

Sir, In your leading article, "Corporatist epitaph" (May 7), you pointed out that Labour ministers and trade union leaders had reduced the rights of individual trade unionists and deprived them of legal protection from exclusion or expulsion from a union.

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Yours faithfully,
JOHN W. WEST,
La Pucelle,
La Ville Danet,
Paimpont,
35380 Pielan-le-Grand,
France,
May 14.

Short cut in Whitehall

From Mr John F. Avery Jones

Sir, You reported (May 11) that Lord Gower, when sending the staff of the Cabinet Office a booklet on plain English, ended his letter "Make plain English the MPO style". Will he now ask the author of the booklet to add a section prohibiting the use of abbreviations by civil servants?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN AVERY JONES,
Flat 9,
7 Cleveland Gardens, W2.

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Textbook may have misled judge

Regina v Moys
Before Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Mustill and Mr Justice Otton

[Judgment delivered May 18]

The Lord Chief Justice, giving the court's judgment quashing a conviction for handling stolen goods because a crown court judge had misdirected the jury, said that a relevant sentence in *Archbold, Pleading, Evidence and Practice* (41st edition (1982) paragraph 18-65 p1122) would be less likely to lead to mistakes if it were to be amended.

Their Lordships allowed an appeal by Robert Moys, aged 34, of Surrey Road, Canterbury, against conviction at Canterbury Crown Court (Judge Cosgrave and a jury) of handling a black and white mare named "Kizzy" knowing her to have been stolen and obtaining property by deception. He was sentenced, respectively, to three months and one month's imprisonment concurrent, suspended for two years and ordered to pay £200 prosecution costs and a legal aid contribution of £500. He was acquitted of theft of the mare.

The Court of Appeal made an order under section 8 of the Legal Aid Act 1982 and the Legal Aid Act 1983 (Commencement No 2) Order (SI 1984 No 220 (c 5)) remitting the legal aid contribution order and an order for payment out of centre funds of the appellant's costs to include the appeal, trial and committal proceedings.

Mr Andrew Goymer, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, ordered the appellant, Mr Richard J. Haworth for the Crown.

The LORD CHIEF JUSTICE said that the mare, valued at £700, was stolen from livery stables on a Sunday night. She reappeared on the Monday when the appellant sold her for £450 in cash. The mare was recognized by her owner, the news

got around and the appellant presented himself at the police station to say that he had sold her. He denied throughout that he was guilty of either theft or handling. The main suspicious circumstances against him were that he told two different stories about how and where he bought the mare and that he had no receipt. The two convictions stood or fell together.

The jury were directed as to the law of theft and all else except for one possible exception. The judge said that the prosecution had to satisfy them so that they were sure that, at the time the mare came into the appellant's possession, he knew or believed her to be stolen. So far so good.

However, she went on to say: "Believed" in that sense means he suspected very strongly that it was stolen and shut his eyes to that possibility altogether. It does not cover having found it and not inquiring where it came from."

Doubtless that form of words was derived from what Lord Widgery had said in *Arwell v Massey* (1971) 56 Cr App R 61, R v Griffiths (1975) 61 Cr App R 141 made it clear that Lord Widgery's words in *Arwell* were not to be taken as adding another

form of knowledge to "know or believe" although at first sight they might appear to do so - suspicion and deliberately shutting eyes to the circumstances was an alternative to knowing or believing the goods to be stolen.

In the present case the judge rightly told the jury that a suspicion coupled with a deliberate shutting of eyes was not merely an alternative but was equivalent to belief. That was incorrect and a material misdirection.

Despite the suspicious circumstances of the appellant's conflicting stories about where and how he bought the mare, there was no reliable evidence that he had paid too little and the prosecution evidence indicated that the absence of a receipt among horse-traders was insignificant. In the circumstances it was impossible to say that had the jury been properly directed, they would necessarily have come to the same conclusion.

Doubtless some of the trouble arose from the way in which the subject was dealt with in *Arwell*, which stated: "It is not sufficient to prove that the goods were 'handled' in circumstances which would have put a reasonable man on inquiry.

The question is a subjective one and it must be proved that the defendant was aware of the theft, or that he believed the goods to be stolen or, that, suspecting them to be stolen, he deliberately shut his eyes to the circumstances."

The paragraph went on to refer to *Arwell* and *Griffiths*. Not every crown court was equipped with the necessary reports. Doubtless the paragraph was accurate if one took the trouble to read it from start to finish.

It would, perhaps, be less likely to lead to mistakes if the second sentence were amended to read as, for instance: "The question is a subjective one and it must be proved that the defendant was aware of the theft, or that he believed the goods to be stolen. Suspicion that they were stolen, even coupled with the fact that he shut his eyes to the circumstances, is not enough although those matters may be taken into account by a jury when deciding whether or not the necessary belief existed."

The appeal was allowed and the convictions were quashed. Solicitors: Mr R. A. Crabb, Maidstone.

Applications for review of taxation

Practice Direction: (Review of Taxation)

Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, sitting in the Court of Appeal (Criminal Division) on May 15 with Mr Justice Mustill and Mr Justice Otton, handed down a Practice Direction relating to applications in the Queen's Bench Division for the review of a taxing officer's certificate under Order 62, rule 35 of the Rules of the Supreme Court.

The LORD CHIEF JUSTICE said that on and after May 10, 1984 the Practice Direction issued on

October 10, 1960 by Lord Parker of Waddington, Lord Chief Justice, would be revoked and replaced by the following:

1 Every application in the Queen's Bench Division under Order 62, rule 35, to review a taxing officer's decision in respect of the taxation of a bill of costs should be made to one of the judges nominated for that purpose by the Lord Chief Justice.

2 Every application should be made by summons to be served within three days after issue and returnable on a day to be appointed.

3 Every summons must contain full particulars of the item or items or which the application for review was made.

4 The summons retained by the court would be sent to the Chief Clerk of the Supreme Court Taxing Office who would arrange for the necessary documents to be lodged, for the appointment of assessors, if required, and for the date of hearing of the summons; and he would notify the assessors and the parties of the date fixed.

Shipowners liable for full \$25m claim

Grand Champion Tankers Ltd v Norpipe A/S and Others (The Marion)

Before Lord Diplock, Lord Scarman, Lord Roskill, Lord Brandon of Oakbrook and Lord Brightman.

[Speeches delivered May 17]

Shipowners were not entitled to leave all questions of safe navigation and chart correction entirely to the discretion of the user without exercising an adequate degree of supervision to ensure that the master properly discharged those responsibilities.

The House of Lords dismissed an appeal by the shipowners, Grand Champion Tankers Ltd from a decision on May 20, 1983 of the Court of Appeal (Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Dunn and Lord Justice Purchas) (The Times, May 24, 1983; [1983] 2 Lloyd's Rep 156) who allowed an appeal by Norpipe A/S and 12 other oil companies from an order dated March 30, 1982 of Mr Justice Sheen sitting in the Admiralty Court ([1982] 2 Lloyd's Rep 52) who granted the shipowners a decree limiting the amount of their liability in damages.

Mr Anthony Clarke, QC and Mr Jeremy Russell for the shipowners; Mr A. G. S. Pollock, QC and Mr David Steel QC for the oil companies.

LORD BRANDON said that on March 12, 1977 the Liberian tanker Marion left Hamburg for Teesside in order to load a cargo there. On March 14 she arrived near the entrance to the Teesside Fairway but because there was no loading berth immediately available for her, she was obliged to come to anchor and wait. The place where her master, Captain Potenza, chose to anchor her was off Hartlepool about 2.7 miles east of The Heugh and about a mile from the Tees Fairway buoy.

On March 18, a loading bay having become available for her, the

Marion tried to weigh anchor so as to enable her to proceed inward to that berth but her efforts to do so failed because her anchor had fouled a pipeline on the sea-bed which carried oil from the Ekofisk Field through Tees Bay to Teesside. As a result of the anchor so fouling the pipeline, and of efforts to haul it up after that had happened, the pipeline was severely damaged.

Thirteen oil companies brought an action against the shipowners in the Admiralty Court in which they alleged that the fouling of the pipeline and the resulting damage had been caused by the negligence of the servants or agents of the shipowners on board the Marion. The amount of the damages claimed in the action exceeded US \$25m.

The shipowners formally admitted liability for the fouling of the pipeline and the consequential damage done to it, but they began an action of their own in the Admiralty Court against the 13 oil companies and all other persons having claims in respect of the damage to the pipeline, in which they claimed a decree that they were entitled to have their total liability in respect of such damage limited pursuant to section 503 of the Merchant Shipping Act 1894, as amended by section 2(1) of the Merchant Shipping (Liability of Shipowners and Others) Act 1958.

Mr Justice Sheen decided in favour of the shipowners and granted them the decree of limitation of liability which they sought. The 13 oil companies appealed to the Court of Appeal who unanimously allowed the appeal and ordered that the shipowners be refused a decree of limitation of liability.

The following matters were common ground before their Lordships House:

First, that if the shipowners were entitled to limit their liability, £982,262.06 was the correct amount of their limited liability.

Second, that the immediate cause

of the damage to the pipeline was the negligence of the master in navigating by reference to a long obsolete chart on which the pipeline was not shown, leading him to let go his anchor in a place where, if he had been aware of the presence of the pipeline, as he would have been if he had navigated by reference to an up-to-date chart, he would never have done.

Third, that having regard to the express terms of section 503 of the 1894 Act as amended the shipowners were only entitled to have their liability limited if they could prove that the damage to the pipeline occurred without actual fault on their part.

Fourth, that on the true construction of those provisions, the burden of proving that (a) there was no actual fault of the shipowners and (b) if there was any such fault, it did not contribute to the damage to the pipeline, was in either case upon the shipowners.

Fifth, that since the shipowners had delegated the management and operation of the Marion wholly to an English company, Fairfield-Maxwell Services Ltd (FMSL), the person whose fault would constitute as a matter of law, the actual fault of the shipowners, was the managing director of FMSL, Mr Downard.

Sixth, that whereas FMSL employed other persons in a managerial capacity, no faults of theirs, if they occurred could constitute as a matter of law, the actual fault of the shipowners. The oil companies contended that the shipowners had failed to discharge the burden of proving that there had been no fault on the part of Mr Downard which contributed to the damage to the pipeline.

First, it was contended that the shipowners had not proved that he had a proper system for ensuring that the charts and other nautical publications on board (a) were not obsolete or superseded and (b) if current, were kept corrected up-to-date at all times.

Second, it was said that the shipowners had not proved that they had a proper system for ensuring that the charts and other nautical publications on board (a) were not obsolete or superseded and (b) if current, were kept corrected up-to-date at all times.

There was a time when courts dealing with contested limitation actions considered that shipowners or ship managers sufficiently discharged their responsibilities if they appointed a competent master and left all questions of safe navigation, including the obtaining of their expense of all necessary charts and other nautical publications entirely to him. That view was now out-of-date as appeared from the judgment of Sir Gordon Willmer in *The England* ([1973] 1 Lloyd's Rep 373).

In order to ensure the safe navigation of a ship on the voyages undertaken by her, three requirements with regard to charts had to be fulfilled.

First, that she should have on board and available for use, the current versions of the charts necessary for such voyages.

Second, that any obsolete or superseded charts which might formerly have been proper for use on such voyages, should either be destroyed or at least segregated from the current charts in such a way as to avoid any possibility of confusion.

Third, that the current charts

should either be corrected up-to-date at all times or at least that such corrections should be made prior to their possible use on any particular voyage.

Mr Downard's system with regard to charts was to make the master of the Marion solely responsible for ensuring with the aid of one or more of his deck officers, that the three requirements were fulfilled. The master indicated for the charts he thought necessary and FMSL paid the bill for them. FMSL also sent to the Marion on a regular basis all weekly Admiralty Notices to Mariners and all chart correction traces relating to Admiralty charts.

Mr Downard, however, and as a matter of considered policy, did not either himself, or through his subordinates exercise any supervision of any kind over the way in which the master performed the responsibilities with regard to charts which had been assigned to him.

It was the duty of Mr Downard to ensure that an adequate degree of supervision of the master in the keeping of up-to-date charts was exercised, either by himself or by his subordinates. Mr Downard, each of whom was fully qualified to exercise such supervision. In so far as Mr Downard failed to perform his duty in that respect, such failure constituted in law actual fault of the shipowners.

Turning to the second criticism against Mr Downard regarding the Liberian safety inspection report, he agreed in evidence that the report disclosed an appalling situation in regard to the charts on board and was such as to destroy his confidence in the system for the provision and maintenance of charts and his confidence in the master.

He said that he should have been told of the report (he did not in fact become aware of it until after the founding of the action in March 1977) and that if he had, he would have sent representatives of a well known chart supplier to make a thorough inspection of the charts, and if the position was unsatisfactory he would have considered dismissing the master.

In short, he would have taken prompt and effective action himself instead of the delayed and ineffective action taken by his subordinates.

The shipowners contended that the only fault in relation to Mr Downard not having the report brought to his notice was that of his subordinates, which was not as a matter of law the actual fault of the shipowners. That contention was not acceptable. During Mr Downard's prolonged periods of absence he was in respect of his duties with FMSL and there would have been no practical difficulty about his being informed of the report and its contents.

It was an inescapable inference from that fact that the instructions which he gave with regard to matters about which he required that he should be kept informed were insufficiently clear or insufficiently precise or insufficiently comprehensive.

It followed that it was at least in part Mr Downard's own fault that he was not told of the report and that constituted as a matter of law, actual fault of the shipowners.

It was impossible for the shipowners to establish that the actual faults which they committed did not contribute to the damage to the pipeline.

Lord Diplock, Lord Scarman, Lord Roskill and Lord Brightman agreed.

Solicitors: Clyde & Co, Coward Chance.

No control of house if rent too low

Pollway Nominees Ltd v Croydon London Borough Council

Before Mr Justice Harman

[Judgment delivered May 11]

The service of a notice to repair pursuant to section 9 of the Housing Act 1957, good on its face, but which was served on a person who was not the person having control of the house, was a nullity.

Mr Justice Harman so held in the Chancery Division granting Pollway Nominees Ltd declarations that it was not the person having control of the premises known as Crown Point, Beulah Hill, Norwood, for the purpose of section 9 of the 1957 Act and that the notice served on it as the person in control of the premises pursuant to that section by Croydon Borough Council was consequently a nullity, and ineffective.

Miss Jill Gibson for Pollway; Mr Robin Campbell for the council.

MR JUSTICE HARMAN said that Pollway was the freeholder of a purpose-built block of 42 flats let on long leases for substantial premiums. The freeholder had no right to possess any part of the habitable part of the building and received ground rents which amounted to considerably less than two-thirds of its full net annual value.

The notice served on Pollway alleged that Pollway was the person having control of the premises. Section 9(2) of the 1957 Act as far as material provided that the person who received the rent-charge (that is, not less than two-thirds of the full net annual value) of a house, or who would so receive it if the house were let at a rent-charge, should be deemed to be the person having control of the house.

Miss Gibson therefore submitted that Pollway was not the person in control of the house and that it was a requirement of the statute that in order to operate at all, the notice had to be served on the person having control. She also advanced the much wider proposition that the 1957 Act did not apply at all to blocks of flats let on long leases.

Mr Campbell contended that the notice could no longer be challenged since section 37 of the 1957 Act provided, as far as material, that any notice against which such an appeal might be brought to a county court should, if no such appeal was brought, become operative on the expiration of 21 days from the date of the notice, and should become final and conclusive as to any matters which could have been raised on such an appeal.

He accepted that a notice had on its face within *Grange v Haringey London Borough Council* ([1975] 1 WLR 241) need not be appealed against and was a nullity which could simply be thrown in the waste paper basket. But he said, this was not such a case; the notice was good on its face in that the formal statutory requirements had been complied with, and factual matters would have to be investigated if it was to be challenged.

His Lordship said that it was *prima facie* correct that if the document was good on its face it should have been challenged before the county court judge. But the statute still required the notice to be served on the person having control of the house. No service of any notice upon the person having control of the house had ever taken place.

None of the authorities touched precisely upon the service of the notice and the point was fundamental to the validity of the notice. He held that the notice wrongly served never became a notice under the 1957 Act because it was not a notice within section 9(1) and was a nullity.

In the light of his decision his Lordship found it unnecessary to decide Miss Gibson's wider point (which would have very far reaching effects) as to whether the 1957 Act applied to all premises such as a block of flats let on long leases or to a house properly so called and once used as a normal family house and now let in four or five flats.

Solicitors: Bernstein & Co, Stamford Hill; Mr P. Dixon, Croydon.

Secrecy of seized papers

General Nutrition Ltd v Fradip Patrai and Others

Mr Justice Warner in the Chancery Division on May 10 refused leave to the plaintiffs to inform the police of what had occurred during and as a result of a search of the defendants' residence and premises, carried out pursuant to an Anton Piller (search and seize) order made by the court on March 1, 1984, or to make available to the police the documents or copies thereof which were found during the carrying out of that search.

His Lordship distinguished *Custons and Excise Commissioners v A. E. Hamlin & Co* (The Times July 15, 1983; [1984] 1 WLR 509), on

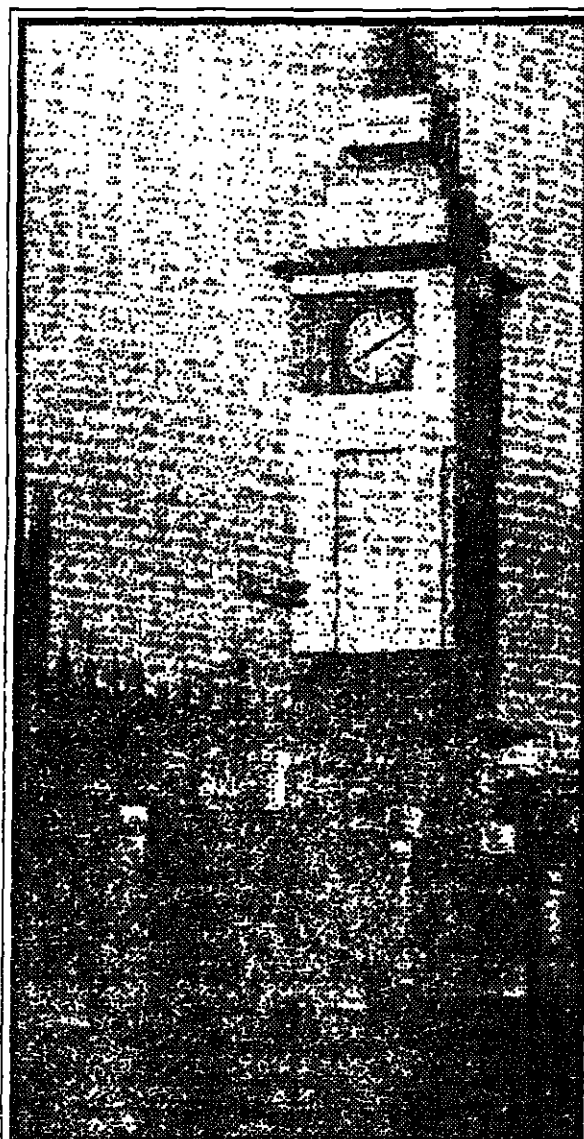
which reliance had been placed by the plaintiffs, on the ground that in that case the effect of the Anton Piller order had been to hamper investigations instituted by the commissioners under their statutory powers.

Although there might be circumstances in which it would be proper for the court to permit the release to the police of documents seized under an Anton Piller order, the mere fact that such documents might show that a criminal offence had been committed did not, of itself, justify a departure from the general rule that documents seized under such an order should be used only for the purposes of the proceedings in which the order had been obtained.

EVEN before the chimes of Big Ben first rang out across the Thames on July 11th 1859, Charles-Félicien Tissot had been making pocket time-pieces that were just as accurate as London's new clock (and a good deal easier to carry around) for six years.

His son, Emile, had already joined Tissot père, and was spreading the fame of the family firm's Swiss-made watches across Europe and beyond to Russia and North America.

Big Ben has stopped over twenty times since then. (A crack in the bell stopped the chimes from 1859-62; they were silenced for expected Zeppelin raids in 1916; starlings on the hands stopped the clock in 1945; and a



pot of paint on the hands stopped it working in 1963.)

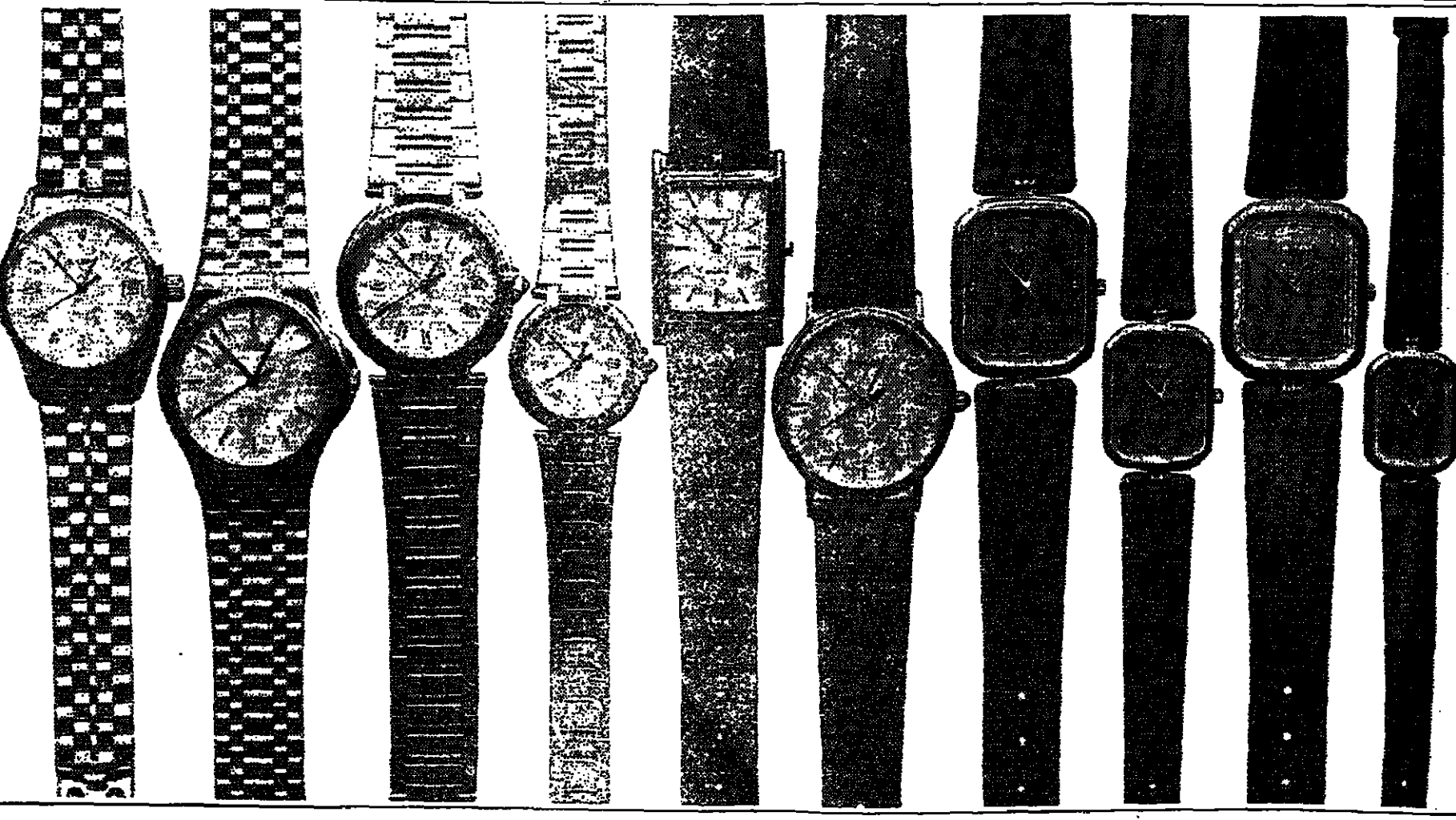
But five generations of Tissots have never stopped bringing you new time-keeping ideas. (The first anti-magnetic watch came in 1930; the first automatic watch was in 1944; the first moderately priced date watch in 1955; the first watch with a 3-years-plus battery in 1979.)

There are over 200 Tissot watches you can choose from today. They're still made in Switzerland, to standards other watchmakers envy.

They cost from £50 to £250. Which is much cheaper than the original £22,000 (1859 prices) spent on Big Ben's clock and bells alone.

TISSOT

WE HAVEN'T STOPPED SINCE BIG BEN STARTED.



House of Commons
£25m claim

THE ARTS

Television Paper bag writer

Melvyn Bragg, described, Stephen Sondheim, whose turn it was to appear on *The South Bank Show* (LWT), as "one of the world's greatest composers and lyricists and musical dramatists". Whether he meant the greatest ever, and thus in the company of Stravinsky and Wagner, or just the greatest in the last few years, was not made clear.

Most popular lyrics have nothing like the refinement of the "average nursery rhyme"; however, and the tunes tend to be more banal, but even if we give Sondheim the benefit of the doubt, it was still somewhat peculiar that he should be invited to give what was described as a "master class".

Sondheim himself (who seemed pleasant and, except for one embarrassing analogy with Shakespeare, unassuming) tried to lend a certain vivacity to the proceedings by coaching various students from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in the right gestures and phrasing for his songs.

The performers put everything they had into lyrics such as "Isn't it bliss, Don't you approve. One who's been tearing around, One who can't move". But they were essentially wasting their breath by blowing into the musical equivalent of a paper bag.

This was the moment when

Mr Bragg should have come in front of the cameras and asked one or two pertinent questions, but he remained out of sight, as Sondheim discussed in a serious fashion the mental state of *Sweeney Todd*.

Although Mr Bragg had been at pains earlier to suggest that Sondheim was one of the few popular composers whose work is taken seriously by the critics, I suspect that his musicals are successful for the same reasons as most musicals: they are full of either cheerful or mawkish sentimentality, described by Sondheim as "bitter-sweet", and specialize in that kind of breezy "uplift" which is often mistaken for elevation, and which used to be the property of one or two of the more obscure religious sects.

Certainly it is not strange that cheap, or at least inexpensive, music should be so potent - these songs reproduce in handily assimilable form some of the emotions people think they ought to possess, but never really do.

Perhaps last night's programme was not, in any case, the best way to deal with Sondheim. It would have been more instructive, or at least more entertaining, to have watched instead a conventional documentary about his life and work.

Peter Ackroyd

Opera

Tcherevichki Morley College

In 1890, the year of *The Queen of Spades*, Tchaikovsky wrote: "I believe unreservedly in Tcherevichki's future as a repertoire piece and I consider it musically well-nigh my best opera". The Devil (for he plays some part in it all) only knows why Tchaikovsky thought as he did. His forthright opera won a prize in its original version as *Vakula the Smith*, but even in Morley College Opera's enterprisingly shortened and energetic production of the later version, this ostensibly light-hearted caprice still seems to labour long.

Based on Gogol's *Christmas Eve*, the libretto (translated robustly for Morley by Arthur Jacobs) sparks off all the right ingredients. As the ghost of Tchaikovsky past and future flits across an exquisitely orchestrated "Bicknory" dirge, the cry of water nymphs recalls the fantasy of *Rusalka*, even of *Rusalka*, gopaks, polonaises, and kobza music toughen the heroine's and Tchaikovsky's more lyrically introverted moments. But the total experience of the tale of the Tsarina Slippers, sought by Vakula to

win the heart of the capricious Oxana, is rather like a potpourri of *The Devil and Kate*, *Rusalka* and *Mr Broucek* without quite the coherence or impetus of either one.

It is both imaginative and brave of Morley College to present, on an artistic and physical shoestring, what is the first fully staged UK performance of the work. Funds from ILEA and the GB/USSR Association could hardly stretch to the requisite pageant of snowstorms and aerial flights; but a miniature toy-theatre set, nicely painted in the style of a Russian folk tale book, frames Andrew Downie's enthusiastic production.

As snow is unashamedly tossed in from the wings, scenery shifted during beguiling orchestral interludes, Morley's Emma Cons Hall takes on the atmosphere of Aldeburgh's Jubilee Hall during a performance of *Noye's Fludde*. David Shaw conducts the Morley Opera Orchestra, a strong, well-trained chorus, and a cast of confident, even over-ardent, amateur singers led by Geradine Arthur as Oxana, Laila Swen as Vakula, Kirsten Johnson as Solokha, his witch-mother, and Geoffrey Thompson as the Devil.

Hilary Finch

Caroline Moorehead on a collection of letters from Jean Rhys, just published, which completes our picture of the author

Spirit and the letter

Last year a portrait of Jean Rhys, the author of the much-loved *Wide Sargasso Sea*, written after a mysterious silence of 25 years, appeared as one of three essays in a collection called *Difficult Women*, by a friend of hers, David Plante. The woman he conjured up was finicky, querulous, demanding, often drinking heavily, and faintly absurd - a record her friends universally agree to be a cruel distortion of the truth.

In her will, Jean Rhys had stipulated that there was to be no authorized biography, and her literary executor, Francis Wyndham, has done his best to honour her wishes. On the fifth anniversary of her death, he and Diana Melly, a close friend of Jean Rhys towards the end of her life, have brought out a collection of her letters.

"Of course we had moments of terrible anxiety," Wyndham explains. "Perhaps she wouldn't have wanted this either? But she was neurotic about accuracy, not about privacy and secrecy. I don't feel David Plante was balanced. It's a very hard picture of Jean and it was out of focus. You don't get the cosiness, the domestic details."

The letters do, unquestionably, redress that balance: they are funny and often extremely moving. "But they are not depressing," insists Diana Melly. "They too too courageous for her." They show a woman determined to make her writing good, fascinated by friendships, who feels physically frail and often cold and who is most of the time very unhappy. They start in 1931, when her writing was just beginning to attract attention, and end in 1966, when *Wide Sargasso Sea* brought her a new and wider literary recognition.

Diana Melly first met Jean Rhys when she was in her seventies. She had read *Wide Sargasso Sea* and "like so many other people on whom it seemed to have that effect, I longed to meet its author". Sonia Orwell was a mutual friend and introduced them. "Later, when Jean came to London, she stayed with me."

Both Sonia Orwell and Diana Melly were, says Wyndham, "inspired friends to her, having been drawn to her by her writing, but realizing that she didn't want to talk about it, but about clothes and hats. I think people had been very governessy towards her."

Wyndham's own friendship



Diana Melly and Francis Wyndham: "So much of Rhys's life was obscure"

begin as a literary quest. "In 1945 I read an article about writers writing about low life in Penguin New Writing. There were two paragraphs about Jean. A friend found a copy of *Voyage in the Dark* in a second-hand bookshop. I went to the British Museum to read the letters and wrote a piece about her in *Tribune*."

"It was then that I was told that she was dead. From then on, I kept on writing about her as 'the late Jean Rhys'. It turned out that lots of literary people from the thirties - Cyril Connolly, Anthony Powell - knew her books well. They all thought she was dead."

"One can see why, now. So much of her life was obscure. She wasn't a literary lady like Virginia Woolf. And even though she was in Paris and London and was Ford Maddox Ford's lover, she wasn't in the *Radio Times*. 'In Quest of a Missing Author' by Selma Vaz Dias, who had adapted *Good Morning Midnight*: from this he learnt that she was in fact alive."

Once the decision to collect the letters had been taken, Wyndham and Diana Melly embarked on what turned out to be a pleasurable literary treasure

hunt, pursuing the spidery handwritten letters - Jean Rhys never learnt to type - across the Atlantic. They tell the story together.

"We went to Tulsa University where we knew they were starting to put together a Jean Rhys archive," Wyndham starts, "and we found some more letters in Texas." Diana Melly: "Then Diana Athill at Andre Deutsch had a file in her office which she had never properly read."

Wyndham: "Then Jean's daughter, Maryon, produced hers and when she reread them it had an extraordinary effect on her. She hadn't really known the circumstances of her mother's life. She hadn't realized how much Jean had cared for her. Jean had never really wanted her to read the novels - because, with a kind of Victorian modesty, she thought she might have been shocked - and she had felt excluded."

"Finally we had a real literary trouvaille. When Jean died I was given a case of her papers. In it I found references to a Peggy Kirkaldy, enough to know she must have been a confidante in the Thirties - a period for which we had very little else. We learnt she was dead and went to look up her will at Somerset House. That gave us the name of a doctor in Wales."

"And," concludes Diana

Melly, "I traced him through the Royal College of Physicians and rang him up. He said he had a trunk in the attic and would have a look in it. A week later he rang and said it had papers. I went to Wales - and there was this wonderful bundle."

Would Jean Rhys ever have completed the story of her own life, begun in a fragmentary way in *Smile, Please*, but which peters out in 1930? "She wasn't the sort of person to want to finish an autobiography," says Wyndham.

The incidents and episodes of Jean Rhys's early life may have left few traces, but the character conveyed in the letters is alive and very strong. And, says Wyndham, they are accurate, which was precisely what she would have wanted. "Her heroines are always alone. Because the novels seem so autobiographical, you think of her as being always separate from a man and looking for another one. That wasn't so. She was married three times and always had a man. I wanted the letters to show that, to show how in essence the novels were about herself, a dreamy sort of person, having a think, going for walks, liking not being interfered with - but not the circumstances."

Jean Rhys's Letters 1931-1966, edited by Diana Melly and Francis Wyndham, Andre Deutsch, £9.95.

PUBLISHING

Anatomy of a poetry list

Anvil Press Poetry Ltd and Carcanet New Press Ltd, to give each young but august imprint its proper name, are two clients of the Arts Council not entirely dissatisfied with the meeting and doing that has recently taken place from 105 Piccadilly. Anvil was founded in 1963 by Peter Jay. Carcanet a year later by Michael Schmidt. Both publish a great deal of poetry. Both are what, historically, are known as little presses. Both reflect their founders' taste and judgment, their commitment to and pleasure in poetry.

Their authors include, for at least one book each: (Anvil) Harry Guest, Peter Russell, Gael Turnbull, Michael Hamburger, Stephen Spender, Sylvia Plath, Joseph Brodsky, Peter Porter, Derek Mahon, Charles Tomlinson; (Carcanet) Christopher Middleton, John Heath-Stubbs, Michael Hamburger, HD, C. H. Sisson, Edwin Morgan, Elizabeth Jennings, Donald Davie, larger and older imprints - Secker and Warburg, Faber and Faber, OUP, Chatto & Windus, and Penguin - may publish better-known, more "popular" poets, but as they also publish authors of fiction and non-fiction known sometimes to achieve best-sellerdom they are not, except perhaps by their principals, taken to be as committed or serious poetry publishers.

Whereas most publishers would as willingly yield up their costings as they would confess to a pact with the Devil, Mr Jay and Mr Schmidt agreed to allow me, and thus you, to be party to their figures. Thus we can see how poetry publishing fares in the mid-1980s.

Mr Jay reports that a typical 64-page slim volume as a collection of new poems is known - costs about £1,000 to produce in an edition of 750 copies, the quantity he usually prints, with a paperback cover. This gives a unit price of £1.33 per copy exclusive of overheads.

A five-times mark-up, which is probably lower than par for the publishing course, would suggest a retail price of £6.50 or slightly more, which hardly anyone would pay; a price, says Mr Jay, "of about £4 would be normal and reasonable". He tends to pay a non-returnable advance of £150 to his poets against a 10 per cent royalty.

Carcanet pays a 10 per cent royalty, too, but offers a variable advance. Mr Schmidt publishes many more titles than Anvil, about 50 per annum. He generally prints 300-750 of new poets. 750 of major hardback collections, 1,000-1,500 of paperbacks by "known poets".

Of a well-known poet's collected poems he did a first printing of 750 and a reprint of the same number: "plus a swinging price rise since we lost money on the first edition". Small presses tend to equate editions with impressions, which is understandable but bibliographically wrong.

Michael Schmidt's press has just published the collected poems of a highly respected living poet. The book makes 384 copies have been printed. The retail price is £12.95, a giveaway considering the prices of most novels. The gross value (eg number of copies printed times retail price) is £10,126.90. The break-even point is a sale of 557 copies. The cover design cost is £50, the typesetting a mere £700, approximately £1.30 per page.

These figures incorporate no overhead allocation, and Carcanet has a staff of three full-time and three part-time employees. Rent and rates have to be paid, too. Anvil's figures are similar. They requested a grant of just under £50,000 from the Arts Council for 1984-85 and re-figures drawn up that they regard the difference between what they needed and what they were granted as "significantly less" and as a result have had to doctor their programme and estimates for the current year to cope with the shortfall.

If a book is priced at £1.00, the retailer will take 35 per cent; the representative or traveller will take 12½ per cent of 65p (the price less the bookseller's discount); the warehouse will absorb 15 per cent of the net turnover of 65p; and the author will receive 10 per cent of the gross. Thus 63p has been eaten gross, leaving the publisher with 37p to pay for all overheads and provide any profit.

Sarah Peel, Anvil's new saleswoman, and Peter Jay came up last autumn with a fascinating and detailed report on "The Distribution of Poetry and Literature" which ought to be made generally available. Anvil's grant from the Arts Council was agreed because, in the words of the finance director, Anthony Field, "the Council recognizes the value and importance of the sales and promotional work begun by Sarah Peel". Anvil and Carcanet not only publish work of quality. Peter Jay and Michael Schmidt and their staffs care about the selling of their publications. They are professionals in literature.

E. J. Craddock

control of house
ent too low



Valery Trofimchuk in *The Mischief of Terpsichore*: Virtuoso showpieces which fashion says one should despise, but which all balletomanes love to see.

Albert Finney
Eileen Atkins Max Wall
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THE OLD VIC

Dance Contest with prizes for everyone

Terpsichore Dominion

The second of the Moscow Classical Ballet's offerings in London, premiered last night, is based on a good idea by Natalia Kasatkina and Vladimir Vasiliev, who also directed it. The title, though, is not such a good idea. *Times* readers probably know who Terpsichore was, but that is not necessarily true of everyone among the new, popular audience this company is attracting to the Dominion, at prices close to Covent Garden's.

The good idea I mentioned just now is that for most of the evening the dancers perform the sort of virtuoso showpieces that fashion says one should despise, but which all real balletomanes love to see. To make it into a show that will appeal equally to newcomers, the separate numbers are strung together on the theme of a ballet competition.

After a stylized classroom sequence that progresses very quickly from the barre exercises to more spectacular steps, a flight of brightly coloured balloons (the dirigible kind) heralds the arrival of an international jury who promptly proceed from greetings to quarrelling. The first stage of the contest consists of light comic pieces composed by Kasatkina and Vasiliev (hereinafter known as K&V). The bravura level rises with a bang when round two begins with the pas de deux from *The Flames of Paris*.

The premiere cast introduced a dancer new to London, Tatiana Paly, who is swift, neat, light and very musical. I would like to see her bring out the humour in her solo a little more freely, but it is quite a while since I saw this role so brightly done.

In real ballet competitions, you can guarantee that three or four contestants in every five will choose the same couple of entries, but K&V ensure plenty of variety in this programme. Their own choreography, when it tries to be serious, is not of a standard to match the traditional pieces included - even when it has Ekaterina Maximova as Juliet in a duet that begins with the lovers clambering out of groups of white-robed monks. But it does provide contrast, and Alexander Gore, basevech almost brings off a solo evoking some of Fokine's famous ballets.

A number little known here is the extract from the triumph scene in *La Bayadere* (although the man's solo is familiar, since Nureyev incorporated it into the Kingdom of Shades scene). Four women and, briefly, a couple of men support the main couple, Gorbachevich (whose double cabriolet is impressive, his final manoeuvre just slightly less so) and Galina Shliapina, who is strong but a little too exuberant for my taste.

Nicolai Smirnov jumps high in his solo to Fugni music, and so does Valery Trofimchuk as Acteon in the finale. At the end, the jury cannot agree on a winner, although a man with one leg in plaster claims recognition: he provides a running, or perhaps hobbling, joke all evening.

I would have given the gold medal to Tatiana Paly, not only for her *Flames of Paris* with Stanislav Isayev, but her *Flower Festival at Genzano* (in a mildly unorthodox but attractive staging) with Igor Terentiev and her dazzling fouettes, including some triples, in the *Don Quixote* coda with Gorbachevich. Others will doubtless have their own favourites.

John Percival

Somes departure

Michael Somes, former leading dancer of the Royal Ballet and since 1970 chief regisseur in charge of rehearsals, left the company unexpectedly on Friday. A company spokesman would say only that "After

today he is no longer with us." Somes created leading roles in many of Sir Frederick Ashton's ballets, and was uniquely trusted by Ashton for ensuring their maintenance.

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FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Looking beyond the North Sea windfall

The Gulf war has fanned a tiny flicker out of the dying embers of Britain's petrocurrency. The present margin of spare capacity in the world oil market is huge - a research paper published today by stockbrokers Simon & Coates puts it at over 20 per cent - so it will take a decided turn for the worse in Middle Eastern hostilities to get much of a blaze going. But we have had a reminder of an important lesson. It is not changes in the scale of Britain's energy production that impress the foreign exchange markets, but movements in the jumpy spot market for oil.

This is particularly relevant to the great debate now going on, in the king of vague way that great debates always do, about the years of oil decline. For the past three years oil extraction from the Continental shelf around the United Kingdom has continued to rise steadily, but sterling has not. Only now - when production is by common consent close to its peak - do a series of tanker bombings in the Gulf raise faint memories of an oil-fired pound.

Of course, if Britain were running fast towards exhaustion of its oil reserves, the markets would take note. But - again by common consent - a sharp decline in oil production is not on the cards. Today's peak, or perhaps next year's will stretch out into a plateau, from which the descent will be slower than the original rise. So the Chancellor of the Exchequer assured us last month; and thus far, his story is not contested.

Uncertainty

There are only a few elements in the uncertain business of oil forecasting about which it is possible to be reasonably confident. One is that the new fields now coming on stream do not compare, for size and cheapness, with the big three - Brent, Forties and Ninian. The next is that output from these three is now at its peak. But the third, learnt from experience by the oil companies, is that technical ingenuity, under pressure from head office, can extend the economic life of an oilfield for longer than was originally forecast. The formidable, not to say improbable, task of developing enough small North Sea fields to keep Britain self-sufficient in oil until the end of the century will be eased by the oil companies' proven ability to squeeze extra drops of oil out of fields close to exhaustion.

Now we plunge into uncertainty. Whether the oil companies find it worthwhile to develop these new fields depends on the tax regime, the real price of oil and technological advance. The first can be adjusted, more or less; the third can be hoped for but not promised; the second is the real teaser. The brokers Simon & Coates, smartly castigating the Treasury for assuming the real price of oil falls until the end of the 1980s, but then rises again - thus conveniently keeping ahead of the expected increase in the costs of oil production. This means the Treasury's forecast of oil tax revenue declines very gently over the next 10 years.

Comparisons

Nobody, in truth, can do much better than guess that the oil market will continue to be weakened by the development of energy sources outside the control of the organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, while a recovery in the world's trend rate of economic growth will contradictorily tend to tighten it a little. But for Britain, there are some extra contradictory pressures that, comfortingly perhaps, tend to limit both the risks and the rewards.

A weak oil market has been reflected in a weak exchange rate against the dollar; since oil is priced in dollars, this has protected British oil revenues. So a typical

American smart answer to British complaints about the size of President Reagan's budget deficit and its impact on the dollar runs like this. Britain's budget deficit would be larger than America's, in relation to national output, if the dollar were still as low as it was when the President took office - because the British Treasury would be earning so much less from the North Sea. This is just a smart answer, because it assumes nonsensically that the only impact of a higher sterling exchange rate would be lower oil revenues - but it illustrates an important point.

Of course this soothing view of exchange rates cannot be relied on. There are plenty of other influences at work. Even the oil argument needs qualification: when the spot market tightens because of war, rather than rising demand, funk money heads for the United States. The dollar tends to rise faster than the pound. Then, when these tensions eventually relax, sterling may go up as the dollar price of oil comes down.

But these are the short-term vicissitudes of world politics that cannot sensibly be built in to dry economic forecasts for a decade ahead. Some drops of knowledge can still be extracted from these forecasts, by comparing them with years past.

Assume, for a start, that the Treasury is right and that oil tax revenues will decline only slowly. Even so, this pattern will be radically different from the past decade, when revenue was rising sharply from year to year. The Chancellor says that this annual bonus was used to smooth the path to rising inflation, his critics that it was wasted on rising unemployment. Never mind, for the moment, about that running argument. The point is that the annual increase in real oil revenue cannot be expected in the future.

Free money

In the context of the Chancellor's strategy, this is the logical defence of his change in direction from sharp disinflation to a trajectory that shows only a very slow decline in the rate of inflation over the next five years, aiming for the magic moment of "price stability" sometime in the next half-decade. But it also means that as far as the public sector is concerned, there is no more oil bonus to spend, on infrastructure or anything else on the shopping list. It was only the net increase in oil tax, from year to year, that was in a real sense free money. As revenues flatten out, the oil take can be used only to one purpose if it is deducted from another.

So the Government's - any government's - disposable cash for tax cuts, or extra spending or reductions in borrowing to be earned elsewhere in the economy (with public asset sales as a temporary bonus). This is the real meaning of the end of Britain's oil boom. It is not the remote danger of "running out of oil", because by the time that occurs it may be no more significant than Britain's lack of other particular raw materials. It is that from now on the net additions to Britain's national income have to be earned in more difficult ways: areas of endeavour where the gap between cost and price is not obviously and so deliciously large, and cannot be so easily milked by any government to finance its particular economic strategy - whether this consists of borrowing less or spending more. As time goes on, and that gap narrows in the oil business too, the endeavour will be needed just to stand still. It is not clear just when that second stage will begin. But the first starts almost immediately.

Sarah Hogg
Economics Editor

Banks back £6bn tunnel

The long-awaited Anglo-French study on the financing of a cross-Channel link, due to be published tomorrow, is expected to give the go ahead for a £6 billion scheme to build a twin-bore rail tunnel.

LORD PENNOCK next month becomes the first British businessman to head the Union of European Industries the grouping of the CBI and its European counterparts, since it was formed 26 years ago.

STOCK EXCHANGES

Changes on week
FT-SE 100 Index: 1104.9 up 26.2
FT-100: 874.4 up 3.4
FT-250: 79.50 down 0.15
FT-All Share: 519.79 up 8.14
Bulgaria: 21,000 down 2,239
Datamark USM Leaders Index: 115.79 up 0.76
New York Dow Jones Industrial Average: 1133.79 down 23.85
Tokyo Nikkei Dow Jones Index: 10,126 down 707.87
Hong Kong Hang Seng Index: 856.73

CURRENCIES

Changes on week
LONDON
Sterling \$1.3870 up 0.002
Index 80.4 up 0.4
DM 3.8575 up 0.0175
FF 11.9437 up 0.0537
Yen 324.50 up 5.5
GOLDS
Index 132.0 up 0.5
DM 2.7745 up 0.002
NEW YORK
Sterling \$1.3880
Dollar DM 2.7780

Freeze on brokers

New York - The assets of two former Wall Street brokers and a lawyer were ordered to be frozen as the American Government pressed its case at the end of last week against an alleged stock fraud scheme based on information leaks from a Wall Street Journal columnist.

The freeze applies to Mr Peter Brant, a former broker at the firm of Kidder, Peabody and Company; Mr Kenneth Felis, also a former Kidder broker; and Mr David Clark, an attorney.

The assets of two former employees of the newspaper against whom charges have also been pressed, were not frozen because both men are cooperating, according to lawyers for the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Mr Regan, who was speaking to reporters after a largely inconclusive meeting of the group of 10 industrialized countries on international monetary problems, has left behind Mr Beryl Sprinkel, the deputy secretary, to conclude the bilateral negotiations with the Japanese deputy finance minister, Mr Oba.

At present, Mr Regan said, about two-thirds of an agreement had been drafted. Mr Sprinkel and Mr Oba had to complete this work, and submit the final agreement to himself and his Japanese opposite

Accountants offer trade-off to ease tax-haven clamp

By Ian Griffiths

Leading accountants are pressing the Government to abandon its plan to curb tax havens. They have offered a deal with the Treasury under which the tax-haven clauses from the Budget would be dropped in return for the accountants helping to redraft that part of the Finance Bill. New legislation would hit only those businesses which operated offshore for tax avoidance purposes.

The accountants believe that with their help, the Inland Revenue will be able to produce legislation which still catches the avoiders but takes British companies with genuine overseas trading motives out of the

wider net which is currently proposed.

The deal was proposed at a meeting between a delegation from the Consultative Committee of Accountancy Bodies and Mr John Moore, Financial Secretary to the Treasury. It was prompted by a growing fear that in its present form the legislation will impose an excessive burden on British companies which trade abroad.

With basic rate corporation tax being reduced to 35 per cent the need for the legislation is much less pronounced.

Mr Alan Reid, international tax partner with the accountancy firm Thomson McLintock and a member of the CCAB

delegation, said: "Every British company which trades abroad must check that its overseas subsidiaries are not hit by the proposed legislation which would involve complex and costly calculations."

"As the tax rate comes down to 35 per cent the bulk of international tax planning will be designed to get funds back to the UK."

"At the moment there are 40 pages of draft legislation to attack an abuse which will generate very little money. We believe we can help the Revenue to get the same tax take but with a lot less effort. At the same time it will save British companies the aggra-

vation of this wide-ranging legislation which will inhibit many companies from actually trading overseas."

Legislation to curb international tax avoidance was first proposed three years ago but after widespread criticism was watered down substantially. Clauses on tax havens were scheduled for the 1983 Finance Bill but had to be dropped because of the General Election.

The main source of concern for the Inland Revenue remains the so-called money-box companies which are set up in tax havens purely to avoid remitting funds to Britain where they would attract tax at higher rates.

Hambros Bank to expand

By Wayne Lintott

Hambros Bank intends re-entering the insurance business and may take over an investment management company, according to Mr Rupert Hambro, chairman of the bank.

Mr Hambro received two cheques last week totalling more than £123m, being the cash consideration for the sale of the bank's 25 per cent stake in the Hambro Life Insurance group which has been sold to the Charterhouse J Rothschild financial services combine.

Mr Hambro confirmed that Charterhouse J Rothschild will have to give up the name Hambro Life. He said: "The Hambro portion of the name reverts back to us at the completion date of the merger or within 18 months of that date."

What did the bank intend doing with the money? Mr Hambro replied: "The City knew the money was coming so a lot of propositions have been put to us."

He added: "We intend spending some of that clearing up operations, such as repaying short-term debt. We are closely involved in financial services (the bank has taken a stake in the brokers Strauss Turnbull) and we will be moving back into the insurance business, after all we spent 10 years building up Hambro Life."

Mr Hambro disclosed that the bank would be looking at the investment management business. "At the moment prices are too high, but I believe that they will fall back over the next six months," he said.

"And there are certain property deals that have been put to us."

Caparo raises Greenfields stake to 11.8%

By Our Financial Staff

The proposed merger between Greenfields Leisure, the camping and leisure equipment group, and Blacks Camping and Leisure, where Caparo Group has a 20 per cent stake has moved a step closer with Caparo increasing its holding in Greenfields by 1 per cent to 11.8 per cent.

Greenfields signalled its approval of the merger this month when the Greenfield family sold its 27.5 per cent stake to a consortium led by Mr Murdoch Morrison, chairman of Blacks.

Mr Morrison has been involved in talks with Greenfields since the share sale and is due to meet the Greenfields management again this morning.

His initial plans to reshape the troubled British camping and leisure equipment industry, with the continued support of Caparo, also included Campari International, the leisurewear group.

However, Campari pulled out of the merger negotiations because it was unhappy about the terms.

Mr James Leek, chief executive of Caparo, said the talks were in their "very early days". He said that Caparo had bought the additional 100,000 shares in Greenfields at 47p each, compared with the 50p per share paid for the original holding in Greenfields.

Yule Catto predicts 51% rise in last-ditch takeover bid

By Andrew Cornelius

Yule Catto, the plantations, building products and chemicals group which is still fighting for control of the Donald Macpherson, Cover Plus paint group, has forecast a 51 per cent increase in pretax profits this year to £11.5m and 37 per cent increase in dividends for the year to 5.5p net per share.

At the same time Yule Catto has announced details of three deals which could yield an additional £6.1m in profits for 1984, on top of the £11.5m forecast.

The impressive forecasts were released during the weekend in attempt to beat the Finnish company, Tikkurila Varitehtaat Oy, whose cash bid for Macpherson has already been recommended by the paint group's directors.

Yule Catto's offer of 34 of its own shares plus 40 redeemable preference shares for every 100



Lord Catto, continuing interest for shareholders

Macpherson shares values Macpherson at about £22m. The rival cash bid of 125p per share from Tikkurila is worth £22.6m.

Yule Catto's results for the first four months of 1984 show pretax profits of £3.9m, up 114 per cent on the comparable 1983 figure.

The company said that a conditional agreement to buy 4,000 acres planted with mature oil palm could yield extraordinary profits of £300,000 this year. Approval of a house development deal in Malaysia could yield extraordinary profits of £1.3m and a decision to offer for sale a 20 per cent stake in Goal Petroleum, 10 per cent stakeholder of the consortium which has a half share in the Wyth Farm oil development, could yield further extraordinary profits of £4.5m.

Macpherson directors have, however, accepted the offer from Tikkurila after withdrawing support for the Yule Catto bid.

Lord Catto, chairman of Yule Catto, has argued that his company's offer is the only one to include equity which gives Macpherson shareholders a continuing interest in Macpherson's recovery potential.

Esal winding up petition today

By Philip Robinson

A petition to wind up Esal (Commodities) and its associated companies is due to be heard in the High Court today.

Esal has debts of £21.5m (£153m) and ceased trading five months ago saying that non-payment by Nigeria for its sugar imports had caused the company to run into trouble.

A \$45m rescue package was constructed by the seven leading bankers owed about \$166m,

much of this secured over Esal assets.

The package, for its success, needed the support of creditors holding more than 90 per cent of the total debts. By last Tuesday, a second deadline for signatures to the agreement, the banks had secured agreement with those owed only 87 per cent of total debts.

The banks, led by the Punjab National Bank, said they would

not go ahead unless there was the co-operation of a substantial majority of creditors.

Four unsecured trade creditors refused to sign the package arguing that it was too heavily weighted in the bankers' favour.

But no official value has yet been placed on the estimated \$18m worth of additional assets which have been promised as collateral by Mr Rajendra Sethia, former chairman of Esal.

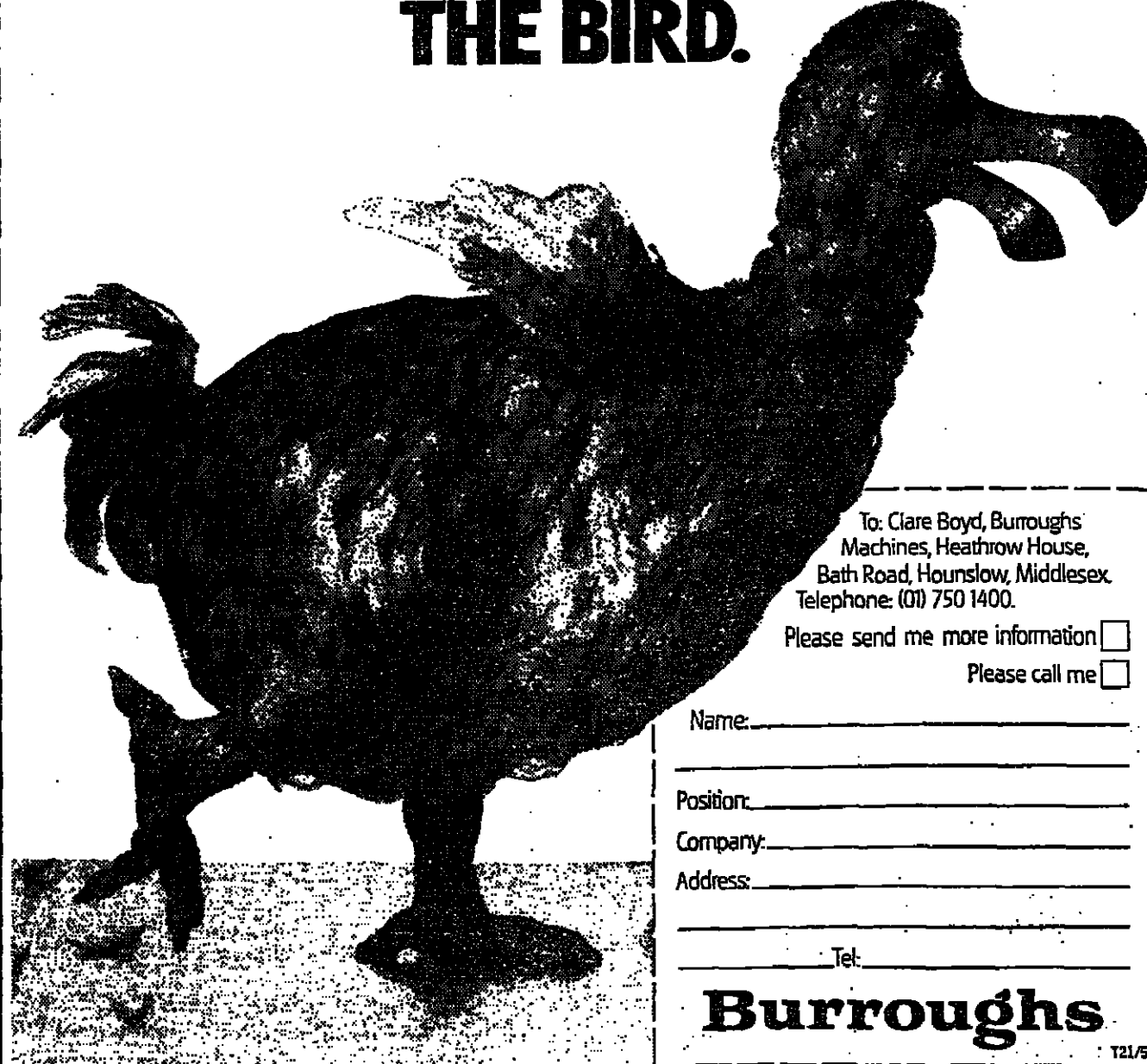
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Landmarks of a campaigning Poet Laureate



On Southend Pier (1980) which he fought to save; a locomotive named after him in 1983; and right, St Mary-le-Strand for which he launched a restoration fund



St Pancras Station in 1933 and (right) a journey through Metro-land on the Metropolitan Railway in 1973

Sir John Betjeman will be remembered, even by those who never read his poetry, as a fervent Englishman, a man who not only wrote about the things and places that he loved, but spent an enormous amount of time and energy fostering and keeping alive parts of his country's heritage.

He loved great buildings like Wells Cathedral and the Church of St Mary-le-Strand, for which he launched a £400,000 restoration appeal fund.

Victorians was his particular passion, and he played an important part in the preservation of St Pancras Railway Station, once regarded as a monstrosity but nowadays acknowledged as an irreplaceable part of London's architectural scene.

Just as he wrote about unfashionable places like London suburbs, so he became identified with those neglected

relics of the Victorian era, Britain's piers. As president of the National Piers Society, he likened the destruction of Southend pier to the loss of a limb.

Like many an overgrown schoolboy, Sir John Betjeman also loved railways, and steam trains in particular.

In 1973 he was televised on a journey through Metro-land, along the London Underground's Metropolitan line from Baker Street to the forgotten station of Verney Junction in North Buckinghamshire.

He became a familiar figure on television during his time as Poet Laureate, usually pleading for the preservation of some monument or other. His poems on these occasions tend to be forgettable, but his enthusiasm made him perhaps the most influential conservationist of his time.

Letter from Beirut
Expatriates fear for their future

From a Special Correspondent

Hazel Moss remembers the genteel Beirut of a decade ago. "We'd wear our evening dresses, and men would be in fine suits. We'd stroll home from parties on warm summer nights. People would call to you from their terraces - even at two or three in the morning - and invite you for coffee and a 'hubby-bubby' pipe. You always felt like a princess."

But Miss Moss, a Derby woman who has been here since 1972, admits: "Even then there were whispers that things weren't quite right."

Today many of the British subjects still in Lebanon are debating whether they should stay. They are worn down by nine years of intermittent civil war and increasingly convinced that the Beirut they once loved is gone forever.

"It used to be fun, but now it's frightening," said a British-born businessman who did not want his name published. "There are crazy people all over the streets. You aren't safe."

Some 3,000 people in Lebanon carry British passports, though only about 10 per cent are British born. They include families with generations of business ties, academics, religious, and social workers, retired couples, and journalists. One long-standing British resident, Edwin George Kemp, was killed early in February during the artillery battles for control of West Beirut, and more than 400 British citizens were evacuated, soon afterwards, some never to return.

"What's left is a pretty hard core," a British diplomat said. "They are here either because their organization says they should be here and they are willing to stay or, in a sense, they feel they have nowhere else to go."

John Munro, a native of Cheam on the outskirts of London, left England 30 years ago to study and work in the United States and Canada. A specialist in late 19th and early 20th century literature, he

moved to Lebanon in 1965 to join the English department at the American University of Beirut.

Throughout the war he never felt directly threatened, but recent events have struck close to home. The American University president was killed, a professor was kidnapped and a Lebanese British Council teacher was beaten up.

"You operate here on two levels," Mr. Munro said. "Rationally you see everything at the same time, emotionally, you feel somehow you must live a charmed life."

His job - and the income it produces to educate his four children - keeps him in Beirut, and the war itself has opened doors for him. He has reported for newspapers and radio stations, read scripts for television commercials produced by a Lebanese firm for overseas distribution and even played as an extra in a German-made film about the civil war. "Where else in the world could a professor of English have such opportunities?" he asked.

Jack Mann and his wife, Susan, from Northampton have been in Beirut for more than 35 years, but they are at last considering a move to Britain, a move favoured by his wife.

Mr. Mann, an RAF Spitfire pilot in the Second World War, joined Middle East Airlines in Beirut in 1948 and until 1962 flew all the airline's routes in the Arab world.

"We really liked it here, have made many friends," said Mr. Mann, who is now retired and approaching 70. "But the life-style has deteriorated and over the years my friends have grown fewer." He ponders a moment, fingering the glasses pulled forward on his nose, then adds: "It's cumulative, I suppose. My United States and Canada. A specialist in late 19th and early 20th century literature, he

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements

The Queen attends the Chelsea Flower Show, Royal Hospital, Chelsea, 5.30.
The Prince of Wales, President of the Bach Choir and Patron, the English Chamber Orchestra, accompanied by the Princess of Wales, attends a concert given by

the Back Choir and the English Chamber Orchestra at the Royal Festival Hall, SE1, 6.45.
Princess Anne opens Fire International '84 at the Metropole Hotel, Birmingham, 10.55, and later opens the Russell Hall Hospital, Dudley, West Midlands, 3.05.
Princess Margaret attends the Chelsea Flower Show, Royal Hospital, Chelsea, 5.30.
The Duke of Gloucester attends

the Centenary Dinner of the Society of Authors at the Mansion House, London, 7.30.
Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, and the Duchess of Gloucester visit the Chelsea Flower Show, Royal Hospital, Chelsea, 5.20.
The Duchess of Kent attends a reception in aid of the Royal College of Music Appeal at St James's Palace, SW1, 10.30 pm.
The Duke of Kent, Chairman of the United Kingdom Committee of European Music Year 1985, attends a meeting of the European

Academy, and the Council of Europe, Paris, leaves from Heathrow airport, 4.45 pm.
Prince and Princess Michael of Kent attend the Chelsea Flower Show, Royal Hospital, Chelsea, 5.10.

New London exhibitions
Paintings by Desiderio Sanchez, Canning House, 2 Belgrave Square, SW1; Tues to Fri 9.30 to 5.30 Mon 9.30 to 6.30 (until June 1).

New provincial exhibitions
Seventeen Royal Academicians and Associates, Beaux Arts Bath, Yorks Street, Bath; 10 to 5 daily.

Talks and lectures
Le Cave Di Marmo Di Carrara, by Bruno Tommasi, Italian Seminar Room 306, Charles Wilson Building, Leicester University, 7.30.

Music
Organ recital by Timothy Albrecht, Coventry Cathedral, 1.05.
Ayrshire Arts Festival: Concert by Atrah's Band, Ayr Town Hall, 7.30.
Concert by the Philharmonia Orchestra, St David's Hall, Cardiff, 7.30.

Perth Festival of the Arts: Concert by pupils of Perth Academy, St John's Kirk, Perth, 12.30; piano recital by Shura Cherkassky, City Hall, Perth, 7.30.
Recital by Meir Williams (soprano) and Annette Bryn Roberts (piano), St Ann's Church, Manchester, 1.

General
Open Day, Museum of Flight, East Fortune Airfield, North Berwick, East Lothian, 10 to 4.

Anniversaries
Births: Albrecht Dürer, Germany, 1471; Alexander Pope, London, 1688; Elizabeth Fry, Quaker philanthropist and prison reformer, Carlisle, Norfolk, 1780; Mikhail Glinka, composer (new style June 1), Novospasskoye, Russia, 1804; Henri Rousseau, painter, Laval France, 1844; William Ekbom, physiologist, pioneer of the electrocardiograph, Nobel laureate 1924, Semarang, Java, 1860.
Deaths: Henry VI, reigned 1422-61, 1470-71, murdered, Tower of London, 1471; Pieter Hooft, dramatist and poet, The Hague, 1647; Karl Wilhelm Scheele, chemist, Koping, Sweden, 1786; Christian Thomsen, archaeologist, Copenhagen, 1865; Ronald Firbank, novelist (*Valmouth*), Rome, 1926.
First solo flight across the Atlantic, New York to Paris made by Charles Lindbergh, 1927.

Nature notes

On the moors, female cuckoos sit on walls and bushes, looking out for meadow-pipit's nests in the grass. During the afternoon, the cuckoo will glide down to the pipit's nest, remove an egg, and lay one of her own in its place. Her offspring will later throw out the other eggs, and any nestlings that have hatched before it. Most cuckoos lay about a dozen interlocking eggs in a season.

Short-eared owls are back in the young couler plantations, which have become an important habitat for them in recent years. They lay their smooth white eggs in a hollow in the ground. Some tawny owls already have downy young in their tree-holes: this is the only time of the year when they are sometimes seen hunting in daylight, to satisfy the nestlings' voracious appetite.

Nearly all trees are now in leaf, and blossom is growing thick on the horse-chestnuts and hawthorns. On the chalk slopes, creamy flowers are opening on the small wayfaring-trees. Cow parsley spreads like a white mist along the roadsides; wild pansies, yellow and mauve, and pale field-pansies thrive among growing crops. Caddis flies dance above ponds.

DJM

Bond winners

Winning numbers in the weekly draw for £100,000, £50,000 and £25,000 Premium Bond prizes, announced on Saturday, are: £100,000: 11TT 24927 (the winner lives in the London borough of Lewisham); £50,000: 12XP 28170 (Solihull); £25,000: 23AZ 16655 (Middlesex).

The pound

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	1.62	1.54
Austria Sch	26.30	26.00
Belgium Fr	82.00	78.00
Canada \$	1.85	1.78
Denmark Kr	14.56	13.86
Finland Mk	8.29	7.99
France Fr	11.26	11.66
Germany DM	3.97	3.79
Greece Dr	158.00	149.00
Hong Kong \$	11.25	10.65
Ireland	1.29	1.23
Italy Lira	2435.00	2335.00
Japan Yen	338.00	322.00
Netherlands Gld	4.49	4.27
Norway Kr	11.33	10.78
Portugal Esc	200.00	190.00
Spain Ptas	218.00	207.00
Sweden Kr	11.78	11.18
Switzerland Fr	3.29	3.12
USA \$	1.43	1.38
Yugoslavia Dnr	205.00	185.00

Retail Price Index: 345.1.
London: The FT index closed down 10.1 at 2,647.9. The Dow Jones Industrial average closed down 6.46 at 1,153.75.

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Roads

Midlands and East Angles: A52: Roadworks at Muston Bends, on Nottingham to Grantham road single-lane traffic with temporary signals. A49: Roadworks at Woolferton, Shropshire, at junction with A456 single-lane traffic with temporary signals. M1: Roadworks between junctions 16 and 18 (Watford Gap and M45 junction); serious delays.

North: A66: Bridge widening at Eden Lodge, Kirkby Thore, Cumbria four miles NW of Appleby; single-lane traffic with traffic lights. Manchester: Gas main replacement at Shaw Road Oldham; temporary traffic signals and single lane traffic. Arnold Street closed. M6: Resurfacing between junctions 22 and 25; two lanes open in each direction, contraflow system in use.

Wales and west: A90: Resurfacing of Exeter to Newton Abbot road at Telegraph Hill, Devon; single-lane traffic with temporary lights. A4: Roadworks along Hotwell Road, and Anchor Road/St George's Road, Bristol no right turn into Jacobs Wells Road. A381/A385: Roadworks at Bruton Bridge, Bridgetown Hill, Totnes, Devon; temporary traffic lights.

Scotland: A905: Bridge works at M9 (junction 5), one lane of roundabout closed. M72: Lighting column installation between junctions 1 and 2 (Airdrie); lane closures on both carriageways.

Information supplied by the AA.

The papers

The Government should think again about buying Trident missiles. The Observer said yesterday. Western purposes were unlikely to be served by Britain acquiring a deterrent larger and more expensive than it needs, just when opinion was favouring deterring Soviet aggression by improving the balance of conventional forces in Europe.

Parliament today
Commons (2.30): Private member's motion on the EEC, Ordnance Factories and Military Services Bill, third reading.

Lords (2.30): Health and Social Security Bill, second reading.

National Day

The United Republic of Cameroon on the west coast of Africa celebrated its National Day yesterday. The date commemorates the 1971 referendum when a new constitution was approved to unite formally in a republic the territories of East and West Cameroon. East Cameroon had been administered by the French until it became the independent Republic of Cameroon in January 1960. A year later West Cameroon, which had been part of the British-administered Trust Territory of Southern Cameroon, opted to join the Republic in a federation. It is now the only officially French and English-speaking state in Africa.

Weather forecast

A complex low near the Continent is slow moving over the North Sea. A trough of low pressure affects E areas

6am to midnight

London, SE England, East Angles: Cloudy, rain in places; wind N to NE, moderate to fresh; max temp 14 or 15C (57 to 59F).
SW, central S England, Channel Islands: Rather cloudy, rain in places; wind N, light to moderate; max temp 14 or 15C (57 to 59F).
Midlands, NW, central N England, Lake District, SW Scotland, Glasgow: Mainly dry, some sunny periods, isolated showers; wind: light to moderate; max temp 10 or 11C (50 to 53F).
NE Scotland, Shetlands, Orkneys and Duncans, Aberdeens, central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland: Cloudy, rain at times; wind N, moderate to fresh; max temp 10 to 12C (50 to 54F).
Wales, Isle of Man: Mainly bright, sunny intervals and scattered showers; wind light to moderate; max temp 14 or 15C (57 to 59F).
Angly, NW Scotland: Cloudy, light rain in places; wind NE, moderate to fresh; max temp 11 to 13C (52 to 55F).
Orkney, Shetland: Mainly bright, but rain at times; wind NE, moderate to fresh; max temp 11 to 13C (52 to 55F).

Look for tomorrow and Wednesday: Continuing generally similar, with showers or longer periods of rain, but some sunny intervals, especially in the W.
SEA PASSAGES: S North Sea: Wind: variable, light, becoming NE moderate or fresh; sea: smooth becoming moderate. Bristol of Dover, Irish Channel: Wind: variable, light sea: smooth. St George's Channel, Irish Sea: Wind: light or moderate; sea: slight.

Sun rises: 5.00 am. Sun sets: 8.55 pm.
Moon rises: 2.05 am. Moon sets: 10.27 am.
Last Quarter: Tomorrow.

Lighting-up time

London 9.25 pm to 4.29 am
Bristol 9.24 pm to 4.29 am
Manchester 9.43 pm to 4.29 am
Penzance 4.40 pm to 4.57 am

Yesterday

Temperatures at midday yesterday: a, cloud; b, part; m, rain; s, sun.
a, b, m, s, C, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z.
a, b, m, s, C, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z.

Highest and lowest

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Manchester 17C (63F). Lowest day temp: Cromer 8C (46F). Highest night temp: Plymouth 15F (59F). Lowest night temp: Stranraer 14.2F (57.6F).
Saturday: Highest day temp: Larnach 19C (66F). Lowest day temp: Larnach 9C (48F). Highest night temp: Larnach 12.4F (54.3F). Lowest night temp: Douglas 13.2F (55.8F).

London

Yesterday: Temp: max 8 am to 6 pm, 14C (57F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 8C (46F). Humidity: 6 pm, 80 per cent. Rain: 24th to 6 pm, 0.0mm. Sun: 24th to 6 pm, 0.0 mm. Sea: mean sea level, 6 pm, 1004.5 millibars, falling.
Saturday: Temp: max 8 am to 6 pm, 16C (61F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 8C (46F). Humidity: 6 pm, 80 per cent. Rain: 24th to 6 pm, a trace. Sea: 6 pm, 1004.5 millibars, falling.



High tides			
Location	Time	Height	Low
London Bridge	6.45	6.45	6.15
Aldershot	11.45	11.45	11.15
Belfast	4.00	4.00	3.45
Bristol	11.44	11.44	11.14
Cardiff	11.45	11.45	11.15
Dunfermline	3.50	3.50	3.45
Edinburgh	3.50	3.50	3.45
Falmouth	11.45	11.45	11.15
Glasgow	11.45	11.45	11.15
Harwich	11.45	11.45	11.15
Leamington	11.45	11.45	11.15
Liverpool	11.45	11.45	11.15
Manchester	11.45	11.45	11.15
Newcastle	11.45	11.45	11.15
Nottingham	11.45	11.45	11.15
Portsmouth	11.45	11.45	11.15
Reading	11.45	11.45	11.15
Sheffield	11.45	11.45	11.15
Southampton	11.45	11.45	11.15
Stirling	11.45	11.45	11.15
Swansea	11.45	11.45	11.15
Torquay	11.45	11.45	11.15
Wolverhampton	11.45	11.45	11.15
Wrexham	11.45	11.45	11.15

Around Britain			
Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud
London	14	10	Cloudy
Bristol	14	10	Cloudy
Cardiff	14	10	Cloudy
Dunfermline	14	10	Cloudy
Edinburgh	14	10	Cloudy
Falmouth	14	10	Cloudy
Glasgow	14	10	Cloudy
Harwich	14	10	Cloudy
Leamington	14	10	Cloudy
Liverpool	14	10	Cloudy
Manchester	14	10	Cloudy
Newcastle	14	10	Cloudy
Nottingham	14	10	Cloudy
Portsmouth	14	10	Cloudy
Reading	14	10	Cloudy
Sheffield	14	10	Cloudy
Southampton	14	10	Cloudy
Stirling	14	10	Cloudy
Swansea	14	10	Cloudy
Torquay	14	10	Cloudy
Wolverhampton	14	10	Cloudy
Wrexham	14	10	Cloudy

Abroad			
Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud
Algeria	18	10	Cloudy
Athens	22	10	Cloudy
Bombay	28	10	Cloudy
Buenos Aires	18	10	Cloudy
Cairo	22	10	Cloudy
Calcutta	28	10	Cloudy
Canton	22	10	Cloudy
Cebu	28	10	Cloudy
Colon	28	10	Cloudy
Hankow	22	10	Cloudy
Hong Kong	28	10	Cloudy
Kobe	22	10	Cloudy
London	14	10	Cloudy
Lyons	14	10	Cloudy
Manila	28	10	Cloudy
Medan	28	10	Cloudy
Paris	14	10	Cloudy
Peking	22	10	Cloudy
Rangoon	28	10	Cloudy
San Francisco	18	10	Cloudy
Singapore	28	10	Cloudy
Sourabaya	28	10	Cloudy
Tientsin	22	10	Cloudy
Yokohama	22	10	Cloudy

ACROSS
1 Victor's lady-love, or William's? (8).
9 One on the stock farm arranged horn care (8).
10 Superior, perhaps, this pigment (4).
11 Office worker has gun? Go back and strike her (12).
13 Pale type troubled by oil ban (6).
14 Expressed approval of witch's place, but in archaic language (8).
15 Though a potential inebriate, the German uses lots of ice (7).
16 Comparatively dull way to overpraise (7).
20 Toffee-nosed like a cobbler once? (8).
22 Some say it's similar to an eruption on the skin (6).
23 Echo of some army drums (12).
25 Athenian character in Blériot adventure (4).
26 Plant for Conservative beauty, say (8).
27 Public display certain to be a revelation (8).

DOWN
2 Like Mrs Malaprop's tongue, or one heard at Mycenae (8).
3 Doubtful like examination candidates? (12).

The Solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No. 16,434 will appear next Saturday

CONCISE CROSSWORD PAGE 8